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(54) Title: SMAD ASSOCIATING POLYPEPTIDES

Clone No.	Clone Name	Number	ShortSmad6	ShortSmad6N	ShortSmad6C	Smad7	Smad7N	Smad7C	Smad2	Smad3
2	AMSH (SAP1)	39	+++	+++	-	+++	++	+++	-	-
8	STAM	2	+++	+++	-	+++	+	++	-	-
14	Hsp40 homolog	1	-	+++	+++	-	-	-	+	-
15	SAP4	1	+++	+++	-	+++	-	+++	-	-
25	Dodecenoyl-CoA	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	SAP5	1	+++	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Uba80	5	+++	+++	-	+++	-	+++	-	-
31	Tax-1 binding protein	3	+	+++	-	+++	-	+++	-	-
32	SAP2	10	+++	-	-	+++	+	+	-	-
37	AMSH (SAP1) (different from clone 2)	2	+++	+++	++	+++	-	+++	-	-
57	Rabaptin-5	2	++	+++	-	+++	+++	+	-	-
59	26S protease S5a	1	+++	+++	+	+++	-	-	-	+
60	SAP3	2	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	++	+	-
61	Tax-1 binding protein (different from clone 31)	2	+++	+++	-	+++	-	+++	+	-
72	SAP2 (different from clone 32 and 93)	1	+++	+++	+	+++	+	++	-	-
93	SAP2 (different from clones 32 and 72)	1	+++	+++	-	+++	-	++	-	-
98	Rabaptin-5 (different from clone 57)	1	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	++	+	-

(57) Abstract: The invention describes Smad associating proteins (SAPs) and nucleic acids that encode SAPs, including fragments and biologically functional variants thereof, as well as antibodies that bind thereto. Methods and products for using such nucleic acids and polypeptides also are provided.

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SMAD ASSOCIATING POLYPEPTIDES

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to nucleic acids and encoded polypeptides which interact with
5 Smad proteins. The invention also relates to agents which bind the nucleic acids or
polypeptides. The invention further relates to methods of using such nucleic acids and
polypeptides in the treatment and/or diagnosis of disease.

Background of the Invention

10 Members of the transforming growth factor- β (TGF- β) family are multifunctional
cytokines with elicit a wide range of cellular effects, including growth inhibition,
differentiation and apoptosis (Heldin et al., *Nature* 390:465-471, 1997). The signaling
induced by TGF- β family members are initiated through a heteromeric transmembrane kinase
complex that consists of type I and type II receptors. The activated type I receptor induces
15 the phosphorylation of receptor-activated Smads (R-Smads) which heteromerize with Smad4.
These complexes translocate from the cytoplasm to the nucleus to direct transcriptional
regulation of responsive genes (Heldin et al., 1997).

Recently, Smad6 and Smad7 were isolated, which form a subfamily among the Smads
and function to inhibit the intracellular signaling by R-Smad/Smad4 complexes. Smad6 and
20 Smad7 constitutively associate with type I receptor by blocking association and
phosphorylation of R-Smads (Hayashi et al., *Cell* 89:1165-1173, 1997; Imamura et al.,
Nature 389:622-626, 1997; Nakao et al., *Nature* 389:631-635, 1997). Smad6 and Smad7 are
rapidly induced by members of the TGF- β family (Afrakhte et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res.*
Commun. 249:505-511, 1998), suggesting that inhibitory Smads may take part in a negative
25 feedback control mechanism to modulate the signaling induced by members of TGF- β
family.

The central role of Smads and TGF- β in cellular processes presents a need for
additional factors to modulate Smads and TGF- β interactions with signal transduction
pathways.

30

Summary of the Invention

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Using the yeast two hybrid system, proteins that specifically bind with Smad6 and Smad7 have been isolated. The invention provides these isolated Smad associating proteins (SAPs) and fragments of those molecules, as well as agents which bind such polypeptides, including antibodies. The invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding SAPs, unique fragments of those molecules, expression vectors containing the foregoing, and host cells transfected with those molecules. The foregoing can be used in the diagnosis or treatment of conditions characterized by the expression of a Smad associating protein, or in the treatment of conditions characterized by the expression of a SAP, or in the treatment of a condition characterized by the expression of a Smad nucleic acid or polypeptide, or by the inadequate or excessive activity of a Smad polypeptide. The invention also provides methods for identifying pharmacological agents useful in the diagnosis or treatment of such conditions. Here, the identification of several SAPs is presented. The SAPs bind to Smad polypeptides including Smad6 and Smad7 and thus are components of TGF- β superfamily signaling pathways.

According to one aspect of the invention, isolated nucleic acid molecules are provided. The isolated nucleic acid molecules are nucleic acid molecules which hybridize under stringent conditions to a molecule consisting of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5 and which code for a polypeptide which binds Smad6, or nucleic acid molecules that differ from the foregoing nucleic acid molecules in codon sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, or complements of the foregoing nucleic acid molecules. Preferably the isolated nucleic acid molecule consists of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5.

According to another aspect of the invention, isolated nucleic acid molecules are provided which are unique fragments of nucleotides 1-2399 of SEQ ID NO:3 between 12 and 2398 nucleotides in length or of nucleotides 1-855 of SEQ ID NO:5 between 12 and 854 nucleotides in length. Also provided are complements of the foregoing unique fragments provided that the nucleic acid molecule excludes sequences consisting of GenBank accession numbers AF176069, AF293384, AA305358, AI219112, N33797 and AB030502. In certain embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecule consists of at least 22, 25, 30, 40, 50, 75 or 100 contiguous nucleotides. In other embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecule consists of between 20 and 32 contiguous nucleotides.

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According to still another aspect of the invention, expression vectors including any of the foregoing isolated nucleic acid molecules operably linked to a promoter are provided. Also provided are host cells transformed or transfected with the expression vectors, as well as transgenic non-human animals including the expression vectors.

5 According to yet another aspect of the invention, methods for producing a polypeptide are provided. The methods include culturing the foregoing host cells under conditions which permit the expression of polypeptide. Preferably the methods include isolating the polypeptide.

10 In another aspect of the invention, isolated polypeptides are provided which are encoded by the foregoing isolated nucleic acid molecules. Preferred isolated polypeptides include molecules comprising the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, fragments or functional variants of SEQ ID NO:4, and a fragments or functional variants of SEQ ID NO:6.

15 According to still another aspect of the invention, isolated polypeptides are provided which include a fragment or functional variant of SEQ ID NO:2. In certain embodiments the fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 consists of amino acids 1-101+234-424, 106-424 or 234-424.

 According to yet another aspect of the invention, an isolated complex of polypeptides is provided. The complex includes one of the foregoing polypeptide bound to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of Smad6, Smad7 and fragments thereof.

20 Also included as an aspect of the invention are isolated polypeptides which bind selectively a polypeptide encoded by the foregoing isolated nucleic acid molecules, provided that the isolated polypeptide is not a Smad, STAM or cyclin polypeptide. In certain embodiments, the isolated polypeptide binds to an epitope defined by a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4 or 6. In other embodiments, the isolated
25 polypeptide is an antibody fragment selected from the group consisting of a Fab fragment, a F(ab)₂ fragment or a fragment including a CDR3 region selective for a SAP polypeptide. In still other embodiments the isolated polypeptide is a monoclonal antibody, a humanized antibody or a chimeric antibody.

 According to still another aspect of the invention, methods for modulating TGF- β
30 superfamily signal transduction in a mammalian cell are provided. The methods include contacting the mammalian cell with an amount of an agent which increases the amount of a

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Smad associating protein selected from the group consisting of SAP1/AMSH (SEQ ID NO:2), SAP2 (SEQ ID NO:4), SAP3 (SEQ ID NO:6), Hsp40 homolog (U40992; SEQ ID NO:8), Uba80 (X63237; SEQ ID NO:10), Tax-1 binding protein (U33822; SEQ ID NO:12), rabaptin-5 (NM_004703; SEQ ID NO:14), and 26S proteinase S5a (U51007; SEQ ID NO:16)
5 or a fragment thereof in the cell effective to reduce TGF- β superfamily signal transduction in the mammalian cell. In certain embodiments, the agent is a nucleic acid molecule encoding one of the foregoing polypeptides.

According to another aspect of the invention, methods for regulating the cell cycle in a mammalian cell are provided. The methods include contacting the mammalian cell with an
10 amount of an agent which increases the amount of SAP2 (SEQ ID NO:4), or a fragment thereof, in the cell effective to bind a cyclin and regulate the cell cycle in the mammalian cell.

In further aspects of the invention, methods for identifying lead compounds for a pharmacological agent are provided. In certain embodiments, the methods include forming a mixture comprising a Smad6 or Smad7 polypeptide, a SAP polypeptide, and a candidate
15 pharmacological agent, incubating the mixture under conditions which, in the absence of the candidate pharmacological agent, permit a first amount of specific binding of the SAP polypeptide by the Smad6 or Smad7 polypeptide, and detecting a test amount of the specific binding of the SAP polypeptide by the Smad6 or Smad7 polypeptide. A reduction of the test amount of specific binding relative to the first amount of specific binding indicates that the
20 candidate pharmacological agent is a lead compound for a pharmacological agent which disrupts the Smad6-SAP or Smad7-SAP binding, and an increase of the test amount of specific binding relative to the first amount of specific binding indicates that the candidate pharmacological agent is a lead compound for a pharmacological agent which enhances the Smad6-SAP or Smad7-SAP binding. Preferably the SAP polypeptide is selected from the
25 group consisting of SAP1/AMSH, SAP2, SAP3 and fragments thereof.

In other embodiments, the methods include forming a mixture comprising an ALK kinase, a Smad polypeptide, a SAP polypeptide, and a candidate pharmacological agent, incubating the mixture under conditions which, in the absence of the candidate
pharmacological agent, permit a first amount of specific binding of the SAP polypeptide by
30 the Smad polypeptide, and detecting a test amount of the specific binding of the SAP polypeptide by the Smad polypeptide. A reduction of the test amount of specific binding

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relative to the first amount of specific binding indicates that the candidate pharmacological agent is a lead compound for a pharmacological agent which disrupts the Smad-SAP binding, and an increase of the test amount of specific binding relative to the first amount of specific binding indicates that the candidate pharmacological agent is a lead compound for a

5 pharmacological agent which enhances the Smad-SAP binding. In preferred embodiments, the SAP polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SAP1/AMSH, SAP2, SAP3 and fragments thereof, the Smad polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of Smad2, Smad3, Smad4, Smad6, Smad7 and fragments thereof, and the ALK kinase is selected from the group consisting of ALK5, constitutively activated ALK5, ALK6, constitutively activated

10 ALK6 and fragments thereof having kinase activity.

The use of the foregoing compositions in the preparation of a medicament is also contemplated.

These and other aspects of the invention will be described in further detail in connection with the detailed description of the invention.

15

Brief Description of the Figures

Fig. 1 depicts a schematic structures of Smad6S and Smad7 mutants used in the yeast two hybrid assay. The human short form of Smad6 and mouse Smad7 were inserted into pEG202.

20 Fig. 2 shows the evaluation of Smad6-associating proteins using yeast two hybrid assay. Smad2, Smad4, Smad6S and Smad7 were used as baits to examine interaction with Smad6-associating proteins in yeast.

Fig. 3 depicts a map of isolated AMSH (SAP1) clones.

Fig. 4 shows a map of isolated SAP2 clones.

25 Fig. 5 shows a schematic illustration of SAP1/AMSH mutants. NLS, putative nuclear localization signal; P1 and P2, proposed SH3 binding regions; JSH, JAB1 subdomain homologous regions.

Brief Description of the Sequences

30 SEQ ID NO:1 is the nucleotide sequence of human SAP1/AMSH.

SEQ ID NO:2 is the amino acid sequence of human SAP1/AMSH.

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SEQ ID NO:3 is the nucleotide sequence of human SAP2.

SEQ ID NO:4 is the amino acid sequence of human SAP2.

SEQ ID NO:5 is the nucleotide sequence of human SAP3.

SEQ ID NO:6 is the amino acid sequence of human SAP3.

5 SEQ ID NO:7 is the nucleotide sequence of the Hsp40 homolog having GenBank accession number U40992.

SEQ ID NO:8 is the amino acid sequence of the Hsp40 homolog having GenBank accession number U40992.

10 SEQ ID NO:9 is the nucleotide sequence of Uba80, having GenBank accession number X63237.

SEQ ID NO:10 is the amino acid sequence of Uba80, having GenBank accession number X63237.

SEQ ID NO:11 is the nucleotide sequence of Tax-1 binding protein, having GenBank accession number U33822

15 SEQ ID NO:12 is the amino acid sequence of Tax-1 binding protein, having GenBank accession number U33822.

SEQ ID NO:13 is the nucleotide sequence of rabaptin-5, having GenBank accession number NM_004703.

20 SEQ ID NO:14 is the amino acid sequence of rabaptin-5, having GenBank accession number NM_004703.

SEQ ID NO:15 is the nucleotide sequence of the 26S proteinase S5a, having GenBank accession number U51007.

SEQ ID NO:16 is the amino acid sequence of the 26S proteinase S5a, having GenBank accession number U51007.

25

Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention in one aspect involves the cloning of cDNAs encoding several Smad associating proteins (SAPs). The sequence of the human nucleic acids for SAP1, SAP2 and SAP3 are presented as SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 and 5, respectively, and the predicted amino
30 acid sequences of the protein products are presented as SEQ ID NOs:2, 4 and 6. Analysis of the sequences by comparison to nucleic acid and protein databases determined that SAP1

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corresponds to the human AMSH gene (GenBank accession numbers NM_006463, U73522) and that SAP2 is related to a *Xenopus* gene, XDRP1 (Funakoshi et al., *EMBO J.* 18:5009-5018, 1999). To the extent that the SAP polypeptides identified herein are similar to previously identified sequences, it is entirely unexpected that the polypeptides are binding partners for Smad proteins.

The invention thus involves in one aspect SAP polypeptides, genes encoding those polypeptides, functional modifications and variants of the foregoing, useful fragments of the foregoing, as well as therapeutics relating thereto. The expression of these genes affects TGF- β superfamily signal transduction by binding to Smad polypeptides including Smad6 and Smad7. The TGF- β superfamily members are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art and include TGF- β s, activins, bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), Vg1, Mullerian inhibitory substance (MIS) and growth/differentiation factors (GDFs).

Homologs and alleles of the Smad associating protein-encoding nucleic acids of the invention can be identified by conventional techniques. Thus, an aspect of the invention is those nucleic acid sequences which code for SAP polypeptides and which hybridize to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the coding region of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5, under stringent conditions. The term "stringent conditions" as used herein refers to parameters with which the art is familiar. Nucleic acid hybridization parameters may be found in references which compile such methods, e.g. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, J. Sambrook, et al., eds., Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1989, or *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, F.M. Ausubel, et al., eds., John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. More specifically, stringent conditions, as used herein, refers, for example, to hybridization at 65°C in hybridization buffer (3.5 x SSC, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% polyvinyl pyrrolidone, 0.02% Bovine Serum Albumin, 2.5mM NaH₂PO₄(pH7), 0.5% SDS, 2mM EDTA). SSC is 0.15M sodium chloride/0.15M sodium citrate, pH7; SDS is sodium dodecyl sulphate; and EDTA is ethylenediaminetetracetic acid. After hybridization, the membrane upon which the DNA is transferred is washed at 2 x SSC at room temperature and then at 0.1 - 0.5 X SSC/0.1 x SDS at temperatures up to 68°C.

There are other conditions, reagents, and so forth which can be used, which result in a similar degree of stringency. The skilled artisan will be familiar with such conditions, and

thus they are not given here. It will be understood, however, that the skilled artisan will be able to manipulate the conditions in a manner to permit the clear identification of homologs and alleles of SAP nucleic acids of the invention. The skilled artisan also is familiar with the methodology for screening cells and libraries for expression of such molecules which then are
5 routinely isolated, followed by isolation of the pertinent nucleic acid molecule and sequencing.

In general homologs and alleles typically will share at least 75% nucleotide identity and/or at least 90% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3 or 5 and SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4 or 6, respectively, in some instances will share at least 90% nucleotide identity and/or at least 95%
10 amino acid identity and in still other instances will share at least 95% nucleotide identity and/or at least 99% amino acid identity. The homology can be calculated using various, publicly available software tools developed by NCBI (Bethesda, Maryland) that can be obtained through the Internet (<ftp://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pub/>). Exemplary tools include the BLAST system available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>, preferably using default settings.
15 Pairwise and ClustalW alignments (BLOSUM30 matrix setting) as well as Kyle-Doolittle hydropathic analysis can be obtained using the MacVector sequence analysis software (Oxford Molecular Group). Watson-Crick complements of the foregoing nucleic acids also are embraced by the invention.

In screening for nucleic acids encoding Smad associating proteins with sequence
20 homology to the SAP nucleic acids described herein, a Southern blot may be performed using the foregoing conditions, together with a radioactive probe. After washing the membrane to which the DNA is finally transferred, the membrane can be placed against X-ray film to detect the radioactive signal.

As used herein with respect to nucleic acids, the term "isolated" means: (i) amplified
25 *in vitro* by, for example, polymerase chain reaction (PCR); (ii) recombinantly produced by cloning; (iii) purified, as by cleavage and gel separation; or (iv) synthesized by, for example, chemical synthesis. An isolated nucleic acid is one which is readily manipulable by recombinant DNA techniques well known in the art. Thus, a nucleotide sequence contained in a vector in which 5' and 3' restriction sites are known or for which polymerase chain
30 reaction (PCR) primer sequences have been disclosed is considered isolated but a nucleic acid sequence existing in its native state in its natural host is not. An isolated nucleic acid may be

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substantially purified, but need not be. For example, a nucleic acid that is isolated within a cloning or expression vector is not pure in that it may comprise only a tiny percentage of the material in the cell in which it resides. Such a nucleic acid is isolated, however, as the term is used herein because it is readily manipulable by standard techniques known to those of ordinary skill in the art. An isolated nucleic acid as used herein is not a naturally occurring chromosome.

As used herein with respect to polypeptides, "isolated" means separated from its native environment and present in sufficient quantity to permit its identification or use.

Isolated, when referring to a protein or polypeptide, means, for example: (i) selectively produced by expression cloning or (ii) purified as by chromatography or electrophoresis. Isolated proteins or polypeptides may be, but need not be, substantially pure. The term "substantially pure" means that the proteins or polypeptides are essentially free of other substances with which they may be found in nature or *in vivo* systems to an extent practical and appropriate for their intended use. Substantially pure polypeptides may be produced by techniques well known in the art. Because an isolated protein may be admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in a pharmaceutical preparation, the protein may comprise only a small percentage by weight of the preparation. The protein is nonetheless isolated in that it has been separated from the substances with which it may be associated in living systems, i.e. isolated from other proteins.

The invention also includes degenerate nucleic acids which include alternative codons to those present in the native materials. For example, serine residues are encoded by the codons TCA, AGT, TCC, TCG, TCT and AGC. Each of the six codons is equivalent for the purposes of encoding a serine residue. Thus, it will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that any of the serine-encoding nucleotide triplets may be employed to direct the protein synthesis apparatus, *in vitro* or *in vivo*, to incorporate a serine residue into an elongating Smad7 polypeptide. Similarly, nucleotide sequence triplets which encode other amino acid residues include, but are not limited to: CCA, CCC, CCG and CCT (proline codons); CGA, CGC, CGG, CGT, AGA and AGG (arginine codons); ACA, ACC, ACG and ACT (threonine codons); AAC and AAT (asparagine codons); and ATA, ATC and ATT (isoleucine codons). Other amino acid residues may be encoded similarly by multiple nucleotide sequences. Thus, the invention embraces degenerate nucleic acids that differ from the biologically isolated

nucleic acids in codon sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

The invention also provides modified nucleic acid molecules which include additions, substitutions and deletions of one or more nucleotides. In preferred embodiments, these modified nucleic acid molecules and/or the polypeptides they encode retain at least one
5 activity or function of the unmodified nucleic acid molecule and/or the polypeptides, such as Smad binding, antigenicity, enzymatic activity, receptor binding, etc. In certain embodiments, the modified nucleic acid molecules encode modified polypeptides, preferably polypeptides having conservative amino acid substitutions as are described elsewhere herein.

The modified nucleic acid molecules are structurally related to the unmodified nucleic acid
10 molecules and in preferred embodiments are sufficiently structurally related to the unmodified nucleic acid molecules so that the modified and unmodified nucleic acid molecules hybridize under stringent conditions known to one of skill in the art.

For example, modified nucleic acid molecules which encode polypeptides having single amino acid changes can be prepared. Each of these nucleic acid molecules can have
15 one, two or three nucleotide substitutions exclusive of nucleotide changes corresponding to the degeneracy of the genetic code as described herein. Likewise, modified nucleic acid molecules which encode polypeptides having two amino acid changes can be prepared which have, e.g., 2-6 nucleotide changes. Numerous modified nucleic acid molecules like these will be readily envisioned by one of skill in the art, including for example, substitutions of
20 nucleotides in codons encoding amino acids 2 and 3, 2 and 4, 2 and 5, 2 and 6, and so on. In the foregoing example, each combination of two amino acids is included in the set of modified nucleic acid molecules, as well as all nucleotide substitutions which code for the amino acid substitutions. Additional nucleic acid molecules that encode polypeptides having additional substitutions (i.e., 3 or more), additions or deletions (e.g., by introduction of a stop
25 codon or a splice site(s)) also can be prepared and are embraced by the invention as readily envisioned by one of ordinary skill in the art. Any of the foregoing nucleic acids or polypeptides can be tested by routine experimentation for retention of structural relation or activity to the nucleic acids and/or polypeptides disclosed herein.

The invention also provides isolated unique fragments of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 or 5 or
30 complements of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 or 5 of sufficient length to represent a sequence unique within the human genome, and identifying a nucleic acid encoding a Smad associating

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polypeptide. A unique fragment is one that is a 'signature' for the larger nucleic acid. It, for example, is long enough to assure that its precise sequence is not found in molecules outside of the SAP nucleic acids defined above. A unique fragment includes a sequence of contiguous nucleotides which is not identical to any sequence selected from the sequence group consisting of (1) sequences having the GenBank accession numbers AF176069, AF293384, AA305358, AI219112, N33797, AB030502 and other sequences publicly available as of the filing date of this application, (2) complements of (1), and (3) fragments of (1) and (2). Thus a unique fragment excludes, by definition, sequences consisting solely of EST and/or gene sequences such as those described by GenBank accession numbers AF176069, AF293384, AA305358, AI219112, N33797 and AB030502.

A fragment which is completely composed of the sequence described in the foregoing GenBank deposits is one which does not include any of the nucleotides unique to the sequences of the invention. Thus, a unique fragment must contain a nucleotide sequence other than the exact sequence of those in GenBank or fragments thereof. The difference may be an addition, deletion or substitution with respect to the GenBank sequence or it may be a sequence wholly separate from the GenBank sequence.

Unique fragments can be used as probes in Southern blot assays to identify such nucleic acids, or can be used in amplification assays such as those employing PCR. As known to those skilled in the art, large probes such as 200 250, 300 or more nucleotides are preferred for certain uses such as Southern blots, while smaller fragments will be preferred for uses such as PCR. Unique fragments also can be used to produce fusion proteins for generating antibodies or determining binding of the polypeptide fragments, as demonstrated in the Examples, or for generating immunoassay components. Likewise, unique fragments can be employed to produce nonfused fragments of the SAP polypeptides such as the N-terminal and C-terminal fragments disclosed herein, useful, for example, in the preparation of antibodies, in immunoassays, and as a competitive binding partner of the SAPs and/or other polypeptides which bind to Smad 6 or Smad7 polypeptides, for example, in therapeutic applications. Unique fragments further can be used as antisense molecules to inhibit the expression of SAP nucleic acids and polypeptides, particularly for therapeutic purposes as described in greater detail below.

As will be recognized by those skilled in the art, the size of the unique fragment will

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depend upon its conservancy in the genetic code. Thus, some regions of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 and/or SEQ ID NO:5 and its complement will require longer segments to be unique while others will require only short segments, typically between 12 and 32 nucleotides (e.g. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 bases long). This disclosure intends to embrace each and every fragment of each sequence, beginning at the first nucleotide, the second nucleotide and so on, up to 8 nucleotides short of the end, and ending anywhere from nucleotide number 8, 9, 10 and so on for each sequence, up to the very last nucleotide (provided the sequence is unique as described above). Many segments of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5, or complements thereof, that are 25 or more nucleotides in length will be unique. Those skilled in the art are well versed in methods for selecting such sequences, typically on the basis of the ability of the unique fragment to selectively distinguish the sequence of interest from non-SAP nucleic acids. A comparison of the sequence of the fragment to those on known data bases typically is all that is necessary, although *in vitro* confirmatory hybridization and sequencing analysis may be performed.

A unique fragment can be a functional fragment. A functional fragment of a nucleic acid molecule of the invention is a fragment which retains some functional property of the larger nucleic acid molecule, such as coding for a functional polypeptide, binding to proteins (e.g., Smads), regulating transcription of operably linked nucleic acids, and the like. One of ordinary skill in the art can readily determine using the assays described herein and those well known in the art to determine whether a fragment is a functional fragment of a nucleic acid molecule using no more than routine experimentation.

As mentioned above, the invention embraces antisense oligonucleotides that selectively bind to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a SAP polypeptide, to modulate TGF- β , activin and/or BMP signaling by reducing the amount of SAPs. This is desirable in virtually any medical condition wherein a reduction of SAP binding to Smad proteins is desirable, e.g., to modulate Smad activity such as in TGF- β signaling.

As used herein, the term "antisense oligonucleotide" or "antisense" describes an oligonucleotide that is an oligoribonucleotide, oligodeoxyribonucleotide, modified oligoribonucleotide, or modified oligodeoxyribonucleotide which hybridizes under physiological conditions to DNA comprising a particular gene or to an mRNA transcript of that gene and, thereby, inhibits the transcription of that gene and/or the translation of that

mRNA. The antisense molecules are designed so as to interfere with transcription or translation of a target gene upon hybridization with the target gene or transcript. Those skilled in the art will recognize that the exact length of the antisense oligonucleotide and its degree of complementarity with its target will depend upon the specific target selected, including the sequence of the target and the particular bases which comprise that sequence. It is preferred that the antisense oligonucleotide be constructed and arranged so as to bind selectively with the target under physiological conditions, i.e., to hybridize substantially more to the target sequence than to any other sequence in the target cell under physiological conditions. Based upon SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 or 5, or upon allelic or homologous genomic and/or cDNA sequences, or upon the nucleotide sequences of other Smad associating polypeptides disclosed herein, one of skill in the art can easily choose and synthesize any of a number of appropriate antisense molecules for use in accordance with the present invention. For example, a "gene walk" comprising a series of oligonucleotides of 15-30 nucleotides spanning the length of a SAP nucleic acid can be prepared, followed by testing for inhibition of SAP expression. Optionally, gaps of 5-10 nucleotides can be left between the oligonucleotides to reduce the number of oligonucleotides synthesized and tested.

In order to be sufficiently selective and potent for inhibition, such antisense oligonucleotides should comprise at least 10 and, more preferably, at least 15 consecutive bases which are complementary to the target, although in certain cases modified oligonucleotides as short as 7 bases in length have been used successfully as antisense oligonucleotides (Wagner et al., *Nature Biotechnol.* 14:840-844, 1996). Most preferably, the antisense oligonucleotides comprise a complementary sequence of 20-30 bases. Although oligonucleotides may be chosen which are antisense to any region of the gene or mRNA transcripts, in preferred embodiments the antisense oligonucleotides correspond to N-terminal or 5' upstream sites such as translation initiation, transcription initiation or promoter sites. In addition, 3'-untranslated regions may be targeted. Targeting to mRNA splicing sites has also been used in the art but may be less preferred if alternative mRNA splicing occurs. In addition, the antisense is targeted, preferably, to sites in which mRNA secondary structure is not expected (see, e.g., Sainio et al., *Cell Mol. Neurobiol.* 14(5):439-457, 1994) and at which proteins are not expected to bind. Finally, although SEQ ID Nos:1, 3 or 5 disclose cDNA sequences, one of ordinary skill in the art may easily derive the genomic DNA corresponding

to the cDNA of SEQ ID Nos:1, 3 or 5. Thus, the present invention also provides for antisense oligonucleotides which are complementary to the genomic DNA corresponding to SEQ ID Nos:1, 3 or 5. Similarly, antisense to allelic or homologous cDNAs and genomic DNAs are enabled without undue experimentation.

5 In one set of embodiments, the antisense oligonucleotides of the invention may be composed of "natural" deoxyribonucleotides, ribonucleotides, or any combination thereof. That is, the 5' end of one native nucleotide and the 3' end of another native nucleotide may be covalently linked, as in natural systems, via a phosphodiester internucleoside linkage. These oligonucleotides may be prepared by art recognized methods which may be carried out
10 manually or by an automated synthesizer. They also may be produced recombinantly by vectors.

In preferred embodiments, however, the antisense oligonucleotides of the invention also may include "modified" oligonucleotides. That is, the oligonucleotides may be modified in a number of ways which do not prevent them from hybridizing to their target but which
15 enhance their stability or targeting or which otherwise enhance their therapeutic effectiveness.

The term "modified oligonucleotide" as used herein describes an oligonucleotide in which (1) at least two of its nucleotides are covalently linked via a synthetic internucleoside linkage (i.e., a linkage other than a phosphodiester linkage between the 5' end of one nucleotide and the 3' end of another nucleotide) and/or (2) a chemical group not normally
20 associated with nucleic acids has been covalently attached to the oligonucleotide. Preferred synthetic internucleoside linkages are phosphorothioates, alkylphosphonates, phosphorodithioates, phosphate esters, alkylphosphonothioates, phosphoramidates, carbamates, carbonates, phosphate triesters, acetamidates, carboxymethyl esters and peptides.

The term "modified oligonucleotide" also encompasses oligonucleotides with a
25 covalently modified base and/or sugar. For example, modified oligonucleotides include oligonucleotides having backbone sugars which are covalently attached to low molecular weight organic groups other than a hydroxyl group at the 3' position and other than a phosphate group at the 5' position. Thus modified oligonucleotides may include a 2'-O-alkylated ribose group. In addition, modified oligonucleotides may include sugars such as
30 arabinose instead of ribose. The present invention, thus, contemplates pharmaceutical preparations containing modified antisense molecules that are complementary to and

hybridizable with, under physiological conditions, nucleic acids encoding SAP polypeptides, together with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

Antisense oligonucleotides may be administered as part of a pharmaceutical composition. Such a pharmaceutical composition may include the antisense oligonucleotides
5 in combination with any standard physiologically and/or pharmaceutically acceptable carriers which are known in the art. The compositions should be sterile and contain a therapeutically effective amount of the antisense oligonucleotides in a unit of weight or volume suitable for administration to a patient. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable" means a non-toxic material that does not interfere with the effectiveness of the biological activity of the active
10 ingredients. The term "physiologically acceptable" refers to a non-toxic material that is compatible with a biological system such as a cell, cell culture, tissue, or organism. The characteristics of the carrier will depend on the route of administration. Physiologically and pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include diluents, fillers, salts, buffers, stabilizers, solubilizers, and other materials which are well known in the art.

As used herein, a "vector" may be any of a number of nucleic acids into which a desired sequence may be inserted by restriction and ligation for transport between different genetic environments or for expression in a host cell. Vectors are typically composed of DNA although RNA vectors are also available. Vectors include, but are not limited to, plasmids, phagemids and virus genomes. A cloning vector is one which is able to replicate in
20 a host cell, and which is further characterized by one or more endonuclease restriction sites at which the vector may be cut in a determinable fashion and into which a desired DNA sequence may be ligated such that the new recombinant vector retains its ability to replicate in the host cell. In the case of plasmids, replication of the desired sequence may occur many times as the plasmid increases in copy number within the host bacterium or just a single time
25 per host before the host reproduces by mitosis. In the case of phage, replication may occur actively during a lytic phase or passively during a lysogenic phase. An expression vector is one into which a desired DNA sequence may be inserted by restriction and ligation such that it is operably joined to regulatory sequences and may be expressed as an RNA transcript. Vectors may further contain one or more marker sequences suitable for use in the
30 identification of cells which have or have not been transformed or transfected with the vector. Markers include, for example, genes encoding proteins which increase or decrease either

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resistance or sensitivity to antibiotics or other compounds, genes which encode enzymes whose activities are detectable by standard assays known in the art (e.g., β -galactosidase, luciferase or alkaline phosphatase), and genes which visibly affect the phenotype of transformed or transfected cells, hosts, colonies or plaques (e.g., green fluorescent protein).

- 5 Preferred vectors are those capable of autonomous replication and expression of the structural gene products present in the DNA segments to which they are operably joined.

As used herein, a coding sequence and regulatory sequences are said to be "operably joined" when they are covalently linked in such a way as to place the expression or transcription of the coding sequence under the influence or control of the regulatory sequences. If it is desired that the coding sequences be translated into a functional protein, two DNA sequences are said to be operably joined if induction of a promoter in the 5' regulatory sequences results in the transcription of the coding sequence and if the nature of the linkage between the two DNA sequences does not (1) result in the introduction of a frame-shift mutation, (2) interfere with the ability of the promoter region to direct the transcription of the coding sequences, or (3) interfere with the ability of the corresponding RNA transcript to be translated into a protein. Thus, a promoter region would be operably joined to a coding sequence if the promoter region were capable of effecting transcription of that DNA sequence such that the resulting transcript might be translated into the desired protein or polypeptide.

20 The precise nature of the regulatory sequences needed for gene expression may vary between species or cell types, but shall in general include, as necessary, 5' non-transcribed and 5' non-translated sequences involved with the initiation of transcription and translation respectively, such as a TATA box, capping sequence, CAAT sequence, and the like. Especially, such 5' non-transcribed regulatory sequences will include a promoter region which includes a promoter sequence for transcriptional control of the operably joined gene. Regulatory sequences may also include enhancer sequences or upstream activator sequences as desired. The vectors of the invention may optionally include 5' leader or signal sequences. The choice and design of an appropriate vector is within the ability and discretion of one of ordinary skill in the art.

30 Expression vectors containing all the necessary elements for expression are commercially available and known to those skilled in the art. See, e.g., Sambrook et al.,

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Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989. Cells are genetically engineered by the introduction into the cells of heterologous DNA (RNA) encoding a SAP polypeptide or fragment or variant thereof. That heterologous DNA (RNA) is placed under operable control of transcriptional elements to permit the expression of the heterologous DNA in the host cell.

Preferred systems for mRNA expression in mammalian cells are those such as pRc/CMV (available from Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) that contain a selectable marker such as a gene that confers G418 resistance (which facilitates the selection of stably transfected cell lines) and the human cytomegalovirus (CMV) enhancer-promoter sequences. Additionally, suitable for expression in primate or canine cell lines is the pCEP4 vector (Invitrogen), which contains an Epstein Barr virus (EBV) origin of replication, facilitating the maintenance of plasmid as a multicopy extrachromosomal element. Another expression vector is the pEF-BOS plasmid containing the promoter of polypeptide Elongation Factor 1 α , which stimulates efficiently transcription *in vitro*. The plasmid is described by Mishizuma and Nagata (*Nuc. Acids Res.* 18:5322, 1990), and its use in transfection experiments is disclosed by, for example, Demoulin (*Mol. Cell. Biol.* 16:4710-4716, 1996). Still another preferred expression vector is an adenovirus, described by Stratford-Perricaudet, which is defective for E1 and E3 proteins (*J. Clin. Invest.* 90:626-630, 1992). The use of the adenovirus as an Adeno.P1A recombinant is disclosed by Warnier et al., in intradermal injection in mice for immunization against P1A (*Int. J. Cancer*, 67:303-310, 1996).

The invention also embraces so-called expression kits, which allow the artisan to prepare a desired expression vector or vectors. Such expression kits include at least separate portions of each of the previously discussed coding sequences. Other components may be added, as desired, as long as the previously mentioned sequences, which are required, are included.

The invention also permits the construction of SAP gene "knock-outs" in cells and in animals, providing materials for studying certain aspects of TGF- β , activin and/or BMP signal transduction.

The invention also provides isolated polypeptides, which include the polypeptides of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4 and 6 and unique fragments of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4 and 6 including fragments shown in Fig. 5 (amino acids 1-226/232-424, 1-194/234-424, 1-233, 1-322/370-424, 1-

111/128-424, 1-101/234-424, 106-424 and 234-424 of SEQ ID NO:2). Such polypeptides are useful, for example, alone or as fusion proteins to test Smad binding, to test phosphorylation, to generate antibodies, and as a components of an immunoassay.

A unique fragment of a SAP polypeptide, in general, has the features and
5 characteristics of unique fragments as discussed above in connection with nucleic acids. As will be recognized by those skilled in the art, the size of the unique fragment will depend upon factors such as whether the fragment constitutes a portion of a conserved protein domain. Thus, some regions of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4 and/or 6 will require longer sequences to be
10 unique while others will require only short segments, typically between 5 and 12 amino acids (e.g. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 amino acids long). Virtually any segment of SEQ ID NOs:4 and 6 that is 10 or more amino acids in length will be unique.

Unique fragments of a polypeptide preferably are those fragments which retain a distinct functional capability of the polypeptide. Functional capabilities which can be retained in a unique fragment of a polypeptide include binding of Smad6 and/or Smad7,
15 interaction with antibodies, interaction with other polypeptides (such as T β R-I) or fragments thereof, selective binding of nucleic acids or proteins, and enzymatic activity. For example, as exemplified herein, N-terminal and C-terminal SAP1/AMSH fragments such as those depicted in Fig. 5 can be used as a functional equivalent of full length SAP1/AMSH in the methods of the invention, including e.g., binding of Smads for modulation of TGF- β signal
20 transduction. Other SAP polypeptide fragments, e.g., other N-terminal or C-terminal fragments, can be selected according to their functional properties. For example, one of ordinary skill in the art can prepare SAP fragments recombinantly and test those fragments according to the methods exemplified below, such as binding to a Smad polypeptide. Those skilled in the art also are well versed in methods for selecting unique amino acid sequences,
25 typically on the basis of the ability of the unique fragment to selectively distinguish the sequence of interest from non-family members. A comparison of the sequence of the fragment to those on known data bases typically is all that is necessary.

The invention embraces variants of the SAP polypeptides described above. As used herein, a "variant" of a SAP polypeptide is a polypeptide which contains one or more
30 modifications to the primary amino acid sequence of a SAP polypeptide. Modifications which create a SAP variant can be made to a SAP polypeptide 1) to reduce or eliminate an

activity of a SAP polypeptide, such as binding to a Smad polypeptide; 2) to enhance a property of a SAP polypeptide, such as protein stability in an expression system or the stability of protein-protein binding; or 3) to provide a novel activity or property to a SAP polypeptide, such as addition of an antigenic epitope or addition of a detectable moiety.

5 Modifications to a SAP polypeptide are typically made to the nucleic acid which encodes the SAP polypeptide, and can include deletions, point mutations, truncations, amino acid substitutions and additions of amino acids or non-amino acid moieties. Alternatively, modifications can be made directly to the polypeptide, such as by cleavage, addition of a linker molecule, addition of a detectable moiety, such as biotin, addition of a fatty acid, and
10 the like. Modifications also embrace fusion proteins comprising all or part of the SAP amino acid sequence.

In general, variants include SAP polypeptides which are modified specifically to alter a feature of the polypeptide unrelated to its physiological activity. For example, cysteine residues can be substituted or deleted to prevent unwanted disulfide linkages. Similarly,
15 certain amino acids can be changed to enhance expression of a SAP polypeptide by eliminating proteolysis by proteases in an expression system (e.g., dibasic amino acid residues in yeast expression systems in which KEX2 protease activity is present).

Mutations of a nucleic acid which encode a Smad7 polypeptide preferably preserve the amino acid reading frame of the coding sequence, and preferably do not create regions in
20 the nucleic acid which are likely to hybridize to form secondary structures, such as hairpins or loops, which can be deleterious to expression of the variant polypeptide.

Mutations can be made by selecting an amino acid substitution, or by random mutagenesis of a selected site in a nucleic acid which encodes the polypeptide. Variant polypeptides are then expressed and tested for one or more activities to determine which
25 mutation provides a variant polypeptide with the desired properties. Further mutations can be made to variants (or to non-variant SAP polypeptides) which are silent as to the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide, but which provide preferred codons for translation in a particular host. The preferred codons for translation of a nucleic acid in, e.g., *E. coli*, are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Still other mutations can be made to the noncoding
30 sequences of a SAP gene or cDNA clone to enhance expression of the polypeptide. The activity of variants of SAP polypeptides can be tested by cloning the gene encoding the

variant SAP polypeptide into a bacterial or mammalian expression vector, introducing the vector into an appropriate host cell, expressing the variant SAP polypeptide, and testing for a functional capability of the SAP polypeptides as disclosed herein. For example, the variant Smad7 polypeptide can be tested for Smad binding as disclosed in the Examples. Preparation of other variant polypeptides may favor testing of other activities, as will be known to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The skilled artisan will also realize that conservative amino acid substitutions may be made in SAP polypeptides to provide functionally equivalent variants of the foregoing polypeptides, i.e., the variants retain the functional capabilities of the SAP polypeptides. As used herein, a "conservative amino acid substitution" refers to an amino acid substitution which does not alter the relative charge or size characteristics of the protein in which the amino acid substitution is made. Variants can be prepared according to methods for altering polypeptide sequence known to one of ordinary skill in the art such as are found in references which compile such methods, e.g. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, J. Sambrook, et al., eds., Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1989, or *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, F.M. Ausubel, et al., eds., John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. Exemplary functionally equivalent variants of the SAP polypeptides include conservative amino acid substitutions of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4 or 6. Conservative substitutions of amino acids include substitutions made amongst amino acids within the following groups: (a) M, I, L, V; (b) F, Y, W; (c) K, R, H; (d) A, G; (e) S, T; (f) Q, N; and (g) E, D.

Conservative amino-acid substitutions in the amino acid sequence of SAP polypeptides to produce functionally equivalent variants of SAP polypeptides typically are made by alteration of a nucleic acid encoding a SAP polypeptide (SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 and 5). Such substitutions can be made by a variety of methods known to one of ordinary skill in the art. For example, amino acid substitutions may be made by PCR-directed mutation, site-directed mutagenesis according to the method of Kunkel (Kunkel, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 82: 488-492, 1985), or by chemical synthesis of a gene encoding a SAP polypeptide. Where amino acid substitutions are made to a small unique fragment of a SAP polypeptide, such as a Smad or SH3 binding site peptide, the substitutions can be made by directly synthesizing the peptide. The activity of functionally equivalent fragments of SAP

polypeptides can be tested by cloning the gene encoding the altered SAP polypeptide into a bacterial or mammalian expression vector, introducing the vector into an appropriate host cell, expressing the altered SAP polypeptide, and testing for a functional capability of the SAP polypeptides as disclosed herein. Peptides which are chemically synthesized can be
5 tested directly for function, e.g., for binding to Smad6 and/or Smad7.

The invention as described herein has a number of uses, some of which are described elsewhere herein. First, the invention permits isolation of the SAP protein molecules (SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4 and 6). A variety of methodologies well known to the skilled practitioner can be utilized to obtain isolated SAP molecules. The polypeptide may be purified from cells which
10 naturally produce the polypeptide by chromatographic means or immunological recognition. Alternatively, an expression vector may be introduced into cells to cause production of the polypeptide. In another method, mRNA transcripts may be microinjected or otherwise introduced into cells to cause production of the encoded polypeptide. Translation of mRNA in cell-free extracts such as the reticulocyte lysate system also may be used to produce
15 polypeptide. Those skilled in the art also can readily follow known methods for isolating SAP polypeptides. These include, but are not limited to, immunochromatography, HPLC, size-exclusion chromatography, ion-exchange chromatography and immune-affinity chromatography.

The isolation of the SAP gene also makes it possible for the artisan to diagnose a
20 disorder characterized by expression of SAP. These methods involve determining expression of the SAP gene, and/or SAP polypeptides derived therefrom. In the former situation, such determinations can be carried out via any standard nucleic acid determination assay, including the polymerase chain reaction as exemplified in the examples below, or assaying with labeled hybridization probes.

25 The invention also makes it possible isolate proteins such as Smad6 and Smad7 by the binding of such proteins to SAP as disclosed herein. The identification of this binding by SAP1, for example, also permits one of skill in the art to block the binding of Smad7 or Smad7 to other Smad-binding proteins, such as other SAPs, such as SAP2 or SAP3. Other SAPs can likewise be used to modulate protein binding to Smads. Binding of the proteins
30 can be effected by introducing into a biological system in which the proteins bind (e.g., a cell) a SAP polypeptide including a Smad6 or Smad7 binding site in an amount sufficient to block

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the binding. The identification of Smad binding sites in SAPs also enables one of skill in the art to prepare modified proteins, using standard recombinant DNA techniques, which can bind to proteins such as Smad6 and Smad7. For example, when one desires to target a certain protein to a Smad6 or Smad7 protein complex, one can prepare a fusion polypeptide of the
5 protein and a SAP protein or a fragment thereof having a Smad binding site. Additional uses are described herein.

The invention further provides methods for reducing or increasing TGF- β family signal transduction in a cell. Such methods are useful *in vitro* for altering the TGF- β signal transduction, for example, in testing compounds for potential to block aberrant TGF- β signal
10 transduction or increase deficient TGF- β signal transduction. *In vivo*, such methods are useful for modulating growth, e.g., to treat cancer and fibrosis. Such methods also are useful in the treatment of conditions which result from excessive or deficient TGF- β signal transduction. TGF- β signal transduction can be measured by a variety of ways known to one of ordinary skill in the art, such as the reporter systems described in the references cited in the
15 Examples. Various modulators of SAP protein activity can be screened for effects on TGF- β signal transduction using the methods disclosed herein. The skilled artisan can first determine the modulation of a SAP activity, such as Smad binding or TGF- β signaling activity, and then apply such a modulator to a target cell or subject and assess the effect on the target cell or subject. For example, in screening for modulators of SAPs useful in the
20 treatment of cancer, cells in culture can be contacted with SAP modulators and the increase or decrease of growth or focus formation of the cells can be determined according to standard procedures. SAP activity modulators can be assessed for their effects on other TGF- β signal transduction downstream effects by similar methods in many cell types. The foregoing also applies to signaling via activin and BMP complexes.

25 The invention also provides, in certain embodiments, "dominant negative" polypeptides derived from SEQ ID NOs:2, 4 and/or 6. A dominant negative polypeptide is an inactive variant of a protein, which, by interacting with the cellular machinery, displaces an active protein from its interaction with the cellular machinery or competes with the active protein, thereby reducing the effect of the active protein. For example, a dominant negative
30 receptor which binds a ligand but does not transmit a signal in response to binding of the ligand can reduce the biological effect of expression of the ligand. Likewise, a dominant

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negative catalytically-inactive kinase which interacts normally with target proteins but does not phosphorylate the target proteins can reduce phosphorylation of the target proteins in response to a cellular signal. Similarly, a dominant negative transcription factor which binds to a promoter site in the control region of a gene but does not increase gene transcription can
5 reduce the effect of a normal transcription factor by occupying promoter binding sites without increasing transcription.

The end result of the expression of a dominant negative polypeptide in a cell is a reduction in function of active proteins. One of ordinary skill in the art can assess the potential for a dominant negative variant of a protein, and using standard mutagenesis
10 techniques to create one or more dominant negative variant polypeptides. For example, given the teachings contained herein of a SAP polypeptides, one of ordinary skill in the art can modify the sequence of the SAP polypeptides by site-specific mutagenesis, scanning mutagenesis, partial gene deletion or truncation, and the like. See, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,580,723 and Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition,
15 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989. The skilled artisan then can test the population of mutagenized polypeptides for diminution in a selected activity (e.g., Smad6 binding, modulation of TGF- β signaling activity) and/or for retention of such an activity. Other similar methods for creating and testing dominant negative variants of a protein will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art.

20 Dominant negative SAP proteins can include variants in which a portion of the Smad binding site has been mutated or deleted to reduce or eliminate SAP interaction with Smad6 or Smad7. Other examples include SAP variants in which the ability to accept phosphorylation by MAP kinases is reduced. One of ordinary skill in the art can readily prepare and test SAP variants bearing mutations or deletions in various portions of the
25 polypeptide.

The invention also involves agents such as polypeptides which bind to SAP polypeptides and to complexes of SAP polypeptides and binding partners such as Smad6 and Smad7. Such binding agents can be used, for example, in screening assays to detect the presence or absence of SAP polypeptides and complexes of SAP polypeptides and their
30 binding partners and in purification protocols to isolate SAP polypeptides and complexes of SAP polypeptides and their binding partners. Such agents also can be used to inhibit the

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native activity of the SAP polypeptides or their binding partners, for example, by binding to such polypeptides, or their binding partners or both.

The invention, therefore, embraces peptide binding agents which, for example, can be antibodies or fragments of antibodies having the ability to selectively bind to SAP polypeptides. Antibodies include polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies, prepared according to conventional methodology.

Significantly, as is well-known in the art, only a small portion of an antibody molecule, the paratope, is involved in the binding of the antibody to its epitope (see, in general, Clark, W.R. (1986) The Experimental Foundations of Modern Immunology Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York; Roitt, I. (1991) Essential Immunology, 7th Ed., Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford). The pFc' and Fc regions, for example, are effectors of the complement cascade but are not involved in antigen binding. An antibody from which the pFc' region has been enzymatically cleaved, or which has been produced without the pFc' region, designated an F(ab')₂ fragment, retains both of the antigen binding sites of an intact antibody. Similarly, an antibody from which the Fc region has been enzymatically cleaved, or which has been produced without the Fc region, designated an Fab fragment, retains one of the antigen binding sites of an intact antibody molecule. Proceeding further, Fab fragments consist of a covalently bound antibody light chain and a portion of the antibody heavy chain denoted Fd. The Fd fragments are the major determinant of antibody specificity (a single Fd fragment may be associated with up to ten different light chains without altering antibody specificity) and Fd fragments retain epitope-binding ability in isolation.

Within the antigen-binding portion of an antibody, as is well-known in the art, there are complementarity determining regions (CDRs), which directly interact with the epitope of the antigen, and framework regions (FRs), which maintain the tertiary structure of the paratope (see, in general, Clark, 1986; Roitt, 1991). In both the heavy chain Fd fragment and the light chain of IgG immunoglobulins, there are four framework regions (FR1 through FR4) separated respectively by three complementarity determining regions (CDR1 through CDR3). The CDRs, and in particular the CDR3 regions, and more particularly the heavy chain CDR3, are largely responsible for antibody specificity.

It is now well-established in the art that the non-CDR regions of a mammalian antibody may be replaced with similar regions of conspecific or heterospecific antibodies

while retaining the epitopic specificity of the original antibody. This is most clearly manifested in the development and use of "humanized" antibodies in which non-human CDRs are covalently joined to human FR and/or Fc/pFc' regions to produce a functional antibody. See, e.g., U.S. patents 4,816,567, 5,225,539, 5,585,089, 5,693,762 and 5,859,205.

5 Thus, for example, PCT International Publication Number WO 92/04381 teaches the production and use of humanized murine RSV antibodies in which at least a portion of the murine FR regions have been replaced by FR regions of human origin. Such antibodies, including fragments of intact antibodies with antigen-binding ability, are often referred to as "chimeric" antibodies.

10 Thus, as will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art, the present invention also provides for F(ab')₂, Fab, Fv and Fd fragments; chimeric antibodies in which the Fc and/or FR and/or CDR1 and/or CDR2 and/or light chain CDR3 regions have been replaced by homologous human or non-human sequences; chimeric F(ab')₂ fragment antibodies in which the FR and/or CDR1 and/or CDR2 and/or light chain CDR3 regions have been replaced by
15 homologous human or non-human sequences; chimeric Fab fragment antibodies in which the FR and/or CDR1 and/or CDR2 and/or light chain CDR3 regions have been replaced by homologous human or non-human sequences; and chimeric Fd fragment antibodies in which the FR and/or CDR1 and/or CDR2 regions have been replaced by homologous human or non-human sequences. The present invention also includes so-called single chain antibodies.

20 Thus, the invention involves polypeptides of numerous size and type that bind specifically to SAP polypeptides, and complexes of both SAP polypeptides and their binding partners. These polypeptides may be derived also from sources other than antibody technology. For example, such polypeptide binding agents can be provided by degenerate peptide libraries which can be readily prepared in solution, in immobilized form or as phage
25 display libraries. Combinatorial libraries also can be synthesized of peptides containing one or more amino acids. Libraries further can be synthesized of peptoids and non-peptide synthetic moieties.

 Phage display can be particularly effective in identifying binding peptides useful according to the invention. Briefly, one prepares a phage library (using e.g. m13, fd, or
30 lambda phage), displaying inserts from 4 to about 80 amino acid residues using conventional procedures. The inserts may represent, for example, a completely degenerate or biased array.

One then can select phage-bearing inserts which bind to the SAP polypeptide. This process can be repeated through several cycles of reselection of phage that bind to the SAP polypeptide. Repeated rounds lead to enrichment of phage bearing particular sequences.

DNA sequence analysis can be conducted to identify the sequences of the expressed

5 polypeptides. The minimal linear portion of the sequence that binds to the SAP polypeptide can be determined. One can repeat the procedure using a biased library containing inserts containing part or all of the minimal linear portion plus one or more additional degenerate

~~residues upstream or downstream thereof. Yeast two-hybrid screening methods also may be~~
used to identify polypeptides that bind to the SAP polypeptides. Thus, the SAP polypeptides

10 of the invention, or a fragment thereof, can be used to screen peptide libraries, including phage display libraries, to identify and select peptide binding partners of the SAP polypeptides of the invention. Such molecules can be used, as described, for screening assays, for purification protocols, for interfering directly with the functioning of SAP and for other purposes that will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art.

15 A SAP polypeptide, or a fragment thereof, also can be used to isolate their native binding partners, including, e.g., Smad6, Smad7 and complexes containing those proteins. Isolation of such binding partners may be performed according to well-known methods. For example, isolated SAP polypeptides can be attached to a substrate (e.g., chromatographic media, such as polystyrene beads, or a filter), and then a solution suspected of containing a
20 Smad6, Smad7 or complex thereof may be applied to the substrate. If a SAP binding partner which can interact with SAP polypeptides is present in the solution, then it will bind to the substrate-bound SAP polypeptide. The SAP binding partner then may be isolated. Other proteins which are binding partners for SAP, such as other Smads, cyclin A, etc., may be isolated by similar methods without undue experimentation.

25 It will also be recognized that the invention embraces the use of SAP cDNAs sequences in expression vectors, as well as to transfect host cells and cell lines, be these prokaryotic (e.g., *E. coli*), or eukaryotic (e.g., CHO cells, COS cells, yeast expression systems and recombinant baculovirus expression in insect cells). Especially useful are mammalian cells such as human, mouse, hamster, pig, goat, primate, etc. They may be of a wide variety
30 of tissue types, and include primary cells and cell lines. Specific examples include keratinocytes, peripheral blood leukocytes, bone marrow stem cells and embryonic stem cells.

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The expression vectors require that the pertinent sequence, i.e., those nucleic acids described *supra*, be operably linked to a promoter.

The invention also includes transgenic non-human animals. As used herein, "transgenic non-human animals" includes non-human animals having one or more exogenous nucleic acid molecules incorporated in germ line cells and/or somatic cells. Thus the transgenic animal include "knockout" animals having a homozygous or heterozygous gene disruption by homologous recombination, animals having episomal or chromosomally incorporated expression vectors, etc. Knockout animals can be prepared by homologous recombination using embryonic stem cells as is well known in the art. The recombination can be facilitated by the cre/lox system or other recombinase systems known to one of ordinary skill in the art. In certain embodiments, the recombinase system itself is expressed conditionally, for example, in certain tissues or cell types, at certain embryonic or post-embryonic developmental stages, inducibly by the addition of a compound which increases or decreases expression, and the like. In general, the conditional expression vectors used in such systems use a variety of promoters which confer the desired gene expression pattern (e.g., temporal or spatial). Conditional promoters also can be operably linked to SAP nucleic acid molecules to increase expression of SAP in a regulated or conditional manner. *Trans*-acting negative regulators of SAP activity or expression also can be operably linked to a conditional promoter as described above. Such *trans*-acting regulators include antisense SAP nucleic acids molecules, nucleic acid molecules which encode dominant negative SAP molecules, ribozyme molecules specific for SAP nucleic acids, and the like. The transgenic non-human animals are useful in experiments directed toward testing biochemical or physiological effects of diagnostics or therapeutics for conditions characterized by increased or decreased SAP expression. Other uses will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The invention also contemplates gene therapy. The procedure for performing *ex vivo* gene therapy is outlined in U.S. Patent 5,399,346 and in exhibits submitted in the file history of that patent, all of which are publicly available documents. In general, it involves introduction *in vitro* of a functional copy of a gene into a cell(s) of a subject which contains a defective copy of the gene, and returning the genetically engineered cell(s) to the subject. The functional copy of the gene is under operable control of regulatory elements which permit expression of the gene in the genetically engineered cell(s). Numerous transfection

and transduction techniques as well as appropriate expression vectors are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, some of which are described in PCT application WO95/00654. *In vivo* gene therapy using vectors such as adenovirus, retroviruses, herpes virus, and targeted liposomes also is contemplated according to the invention.

5 The invention further provides efficient methods of identifying pharmacological agents or lead compounds for agents active at the level of a SAP or SAP fragment modulatable cellular function. In particular, such functions include TGF- β superfamily signal transduction, cyclin regulation and formation of a SAP protein complex. Generally, the screening methods involve assaying for compounds which interfere with a SAP activity such
10 as Smad binding, etc, although compounds which enhance SAP activity also can be assayed using the screening methods. Such methods are adaptable to automated, high throughput screening of compounds. The target therapeutic indications for pharmacological agents detected by the screening methods are limited only in that the target cellular function be subject to modulation by alteration of the formation of a complex comprising a SAP
15 polypeptide or fragment thereof and one or more natural SAP intracellular binding targets, such as Smad6. Target indications include cellular processes modulated by TGF- β superfamily signal transduction following receptor-ligand binding.

A wide variety of assays for pharmacological agents are provided, including, labeled *in vitro* protein-protein binding assays, electrophoretic mobility shift assays, immunoassays,
20 cell-based assays such as two- or three-hybrid screens, expression assays, etc. For example, three-hybrid screens are used to rapidly examine the effect of transfected nucleic acids on the intracellular binding of SAP or SAP fragments to specific intracellular targets. The transfected nucleic acids can encode, for example, combinatorial peptide libraries or antisense molecules. Convenient reagents for such assays, e.g., GAL4 fusion proteins, are known in
25 the art. An exemplary cell-based assay involves transfecting a cell with a nucleic acid encoding a SAP polypeptide fused to a GAL4 DNA binding domain and a nucleic acid encoding a Smad domain which interacts with SAP fused to a transcription activation domain such as VP16. The cell also contains a reporter gene operably linked to a gene expression regulatory region, such as one or more GAL4 binding sites. Activation of reporter gene
30 transcription occurs when the SAP and Smad fusion polypeptides bind such that the GAL4 DNA binding domain and the VP16 transcriptional activation domain are brought into

proximity to enable transcription of the reporter gene. Agents which modulate a SAP polypeptide mediated cell function are then detected through a change in the expression of reporter gene. Methods for determining changes in the expression of a reporter gene are known in the art.

5 SAP fragments used in the methods, when not produced by a transfected nucleic acid are added to an assay mixture as an isolated polypeptide. SAP polypeptides preferably are produced recombinantly, although such polypeptides may be isolated from biological
10 ~~extracts. Recombinantly produced SAP polypeptides include chimeric proteins comprising a~~
fusion of a SAP protein with another polypeptide, e.g., a polypeptide capable of providing or enhancing protein-protein binding, sequence specific nucleic acid binding (such as GAL4),
15 enhancing stability of the SAP polypeptide under assay conditions, or providing a detectable moiety, such as green fluorescent protein or Flag epitope as provided in the examples below.

 The assay mixture is comprised of a natural intracellular SAP binding target such as Smad6 or a fragment thereof capable of interacting with SAP. While natural SAP binding
15 targets may be used, it is frequently preferred to use portions (e.g., peptides or nucleic acid fragments) or analogs (i.e., agents which mimic the SAP binding properties of the natural binding target for purposes of the assay) of the SAP binding target so long as the portion or analog provides binding affinity and avidity to the SAP fragment measurable in the assay.

 The assay mixture also comprises a candidate pharmacological agent. Typically, a
20 plurality of assay mixtures are run in parallel with different agent concentrations to obtain a different response to the various concentrations. Typically, one of these concentrations serves as a negative control, i.e., at zero concentration of agent or at a concentration of agent below the limits of assay detection. Candidate agents encompass numerous chemical classes, although typically they are organic compounds. Preferably, the candidate pharmacological
25 agents are small organic compounds, i.e., those having a molecular weight of more than 50 yet less than about 2500, preferably less than about 1000 and, more preferably, less than about 500. Candidate agents comprise functional chemical groups necessary for structural interactions with polypeptides and/or nucleic acids, and typically include at least an amine, carbonyl, hydroxyl or carboxyl group, preferably at least two of the functional chemical
30 groups and more preferably at least three of the functional chemical groups. The candidate agents can comprise cyclic carbon or heterocyclic structure and/or aromatic or polyaromatic

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structures substituted with one or more of the above-identified functional groups. Candidate agents also can be biomolecules such as peptides, saccharides, fatty acids, sterols, isoprenoids, purines, pyrimidines, derivatives or structural analogs of the above, or combinations thereof and the like. Where the agent is a nucleic acid, the agent typically is a DNA or RNA molecule, although modified nucleic acids as defined herein are also contemplated.

Candidate agents are obtained from a wide variety of sources including libraries of synthetic or natural compounds. For example, numerous means are available for random and directed synthesis of a wide variety of organic compounds and biomolecules, including expression of randomized oligonucleotides, synthetic organic combinatorial libraries, phage display libraries of random peptides, and the like. Alternatively, libraries of natural compounds in the form of bacterial, fungal, plant and animal extracts are available or readily produced. Additionally, natural and synthetically produced libraries and compounds can be readily be modified through conventional chemical, physical, and biochemical means. Further, known pharmacological agents may be subjected to directed or random chemical modifications such as acylation, alkylation, esterification, amidification, etc. to produce structural analogs of the agents.

A variety of other reagents also can be included in the mixture. These include reagents such as salts, buffers, neutral proteins (e.g., albumin), detergents, etc. which may be used to facilitate optimal protein-protein and/or protein-nucleic acid binding. Such a reagent may also reduce non-specific or background interactions of the reaction components. Other reagents that improve the efficiency of the assay such as protease, inhibitors, nuclease inhibitors, antimicrobial agents, and the like may also be used.

The mixture of the foregoing assay materials is incubated under conditions whereby, but for the presence of the candidate pharmacological agent, the SAP polypeptide specifically binds the cellular binding target, a portion thereof or analog thereof. The order of addition of components, incubation temperature, time of incubation, and other perimeters of the assay may be readily determined. Such experimentation merely involves optimization of the assay parameters, not the fundamental composition of the assay. Incubation temperatures typically are between 4°C and 40°C. Incubation times preferably are minimized to facilitate rapid, high throughput screening, and typically are between 0.1 and 10 hours.

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After incubation, the presence or absence of specific binding between the SAP polypeptide and one or more binding targets is detected by any convenient method available to the user. For cell free binding type assays, a separation step is often used to separate bound from unbound components. The separation step may be accomplished in a variety of ways.

5 Conveniently, at least one of the components is immobilized on a solid substrate, from which the unbound components may be easily separated. The solid substrate can be made of a wide variety of materials and in a wide variety of shapes, e.g., microtiter plate, microbead, dipstick, resin particle, etc. The substrate preferably is chosen to maximize signal to noise ratio, primarily to minimize background binding, as well as for ease of separation and cost.

10 Separation may be effected for example, by removing a bead or dipstick from a reservoir, emptying or diluting a reservoir such as a microtiter plate well, rinsing a bead, particle, chromatographic column or filter with a wash solution or solvent. The separation step preferably includes multiple rinses or washes. For example, when the solid substrate is a microtiter plate, the wells may be washed several times with a washing solution, which
15 typically includes those components of the incubation mixture that do not participate in specific bindings such as salts, buffer, detergent, non-specific protein, etc. Where the solid substrate is a magnetic bead, the beads may be washed one or more times with a washing solution and isolated using a magnet.

Detection may be effected in any convenient way for cell-based assays such as two- or
20 three-hybrid screens. The transcript resulting from a reporter gene transcription assay of SAP polypeptide interacting with a target molecule typically encodes a directly or indirectly detectable product, e.g., β -galactosidase activity, luciferase activity, and the like. For cell free binding assays, one of the components usually comprises, or is coupled to, a detectable label. A wide variety of labels can be used, such as those that provide direct detection (e.g.,
25 radioactivity, luminescence, optical or electron density, etc). or indirect detection (e.g., epitope tag such as the FLAG epitope, enzyme tag such as horseradish peroxidase, etc.). The label may be bound to a SAP binding partner, or incorporated into the structure of the binding partner.

A variety of methods may be used to detect the label, depending on the nature of the
30 label and other assay components. For example, the label may be detected while bound to the solid substrate or subsequent to separation from the solid substrate. Labels may be directly

detected through optical or electron density, radioactive emissions, nonradiative energy transfers, etc. or indirectly detected with antibody conjugates, streptavidin-biotin conjugates, etc. Methods for detecting the labels are well known in the art.

The invention provides SAP-specific binding agents, methods of identifying and making such agents, and their use in diagnosis, therapy and pharmaceutical development. For example, SAP-specific pharmacological agents are useful in a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic applications, especially where disease or disease prognosis is associated with improper utilization of a pathway involving SAP; e.g., TGF- β receptor-Smad complex formation, TGF- β superfamily signaling, cyclin regulation of the cell cycle, etc. Novel SAP-specific binding agents include SAP-specific antibodies and other natural intracellular binding agents identified with assays such as two hybrid screens, and non-natural intracellular binding agents identified in screens of chemical libraries and the like.

In general, the specificity of SAP binding to a binding agent is shown by binding equilibrium constants. Targets which are capable of selectively binding a SAP polypeptide preferably have binding equilibrium constants of at least about 10^7 M⁻¹, more preferably at least about 10^8 M⁻¹, and most preferably at least about 10^9 M⁻¹. The wide variety of cell based and cell free assays may be used to demonstrate SAP-specific binding. Cell based assays include one, two and three hybrid screens, assays in which SAP-mediated transcription is inhibited or increased, etc. Cell free assays include SAP-protein binding assays, immunoassays, etc. Other assays useful for screening agents which bind SAP polypeptides include fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET), and electrophoretic mobility shift analysis (EMSA).

Various techniques may be employed for introducing nucleic acids of the invention into cells, depending on whether the nucleic acids are introduced *in vitro* or *in vivo* in a host. Such techniques include transfection of nucleic acid-CaPO₄ precipitates, transfection of nucleic acids associated with DEAE, transfection with a retrovirus including the nucleic acid of interest, liposome mediated transfection, and the like. For certain uses, it is preferred to target the nucleic acid to particular cells. In such instances, a vehicle used for delivering a nucleic acid of the invention into a cell (e.g., a retrovirus, or other virus; a liposome) can have a targeting molecule attached thereto. For example, a molecule such as an antibody specific for a surface membrane protein on the target cell or a ligand for a receptor on the target cell

can be bound to or incorporated within the nucleic acid delivery vehicle. For example, where liposomes are employed to deliver the nucleic acids of the invention, proteins which bind to a surface membrane protein associated with endocytosis may be incorporated into the liposome formulation for targeting and/or to facilitate uptake. Such proteins include capsid proteins or fragments thereof tropic for a particular cell type, antibodies for proteins which undergo internalization in cycling, proteins that target intracellular localization and enhance intracellular half life, and the like. Polymeric delivery systems also have been used successfully to deliver nucleic acids into cells, as is known by those skilled in the art. Such systems even permit oral delivery of nucleic acids.

When administered, the therapeutic compositions of the present invention are administered in pharmaceutically acceptable preparations. Such preparations may routinely contain pharmaceutically acceptable concentrations of salt, buffering agents, preservatives, compatible carriers, supplementary immune potentiating agents such as adjuvants and cytokines and optionally other therapeutic agents.

The therapeutics of the invention can be administered by any conventional route, including injection or by gradual infusion over time. The administration may, for example, be oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, intracavity, subcutaneous, or transdermal. When antibodies are used therapeutically, a preferred route of administration is by pulmonary aerosol. Techniques for preparing aerosol delivery systems containing antibodies are well known to those of skill in the art. Generally, such systems should utilize components which will not significantly impair the biological properties of the antibodies, such as the paratope binding capacity (see, for example, Sciarra and Cutie, "Aerosols," in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th edition, 1990, pp 1694-1712; incorporated by reference). Those of skill in the art can readily determine the various parameters and conditions for producing antibody aerosols without resort to undue experimentation. When using antisense preparations of the invention, slow intravenous administration is preferred.

The compositions of the invention are administered in effective amounts. An "effective amount" is that amount of a composition that alone, or together with further doses, produces the desired response, e.g. alters favorably the signal transduction resulting from binding of a TGF- β superfamily ligand to specific receptors. In the case of treating a particular disease, such as cancer, the desired response is inhibiting the progression of the

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disease. This may involve only slowing the progression of the disease temporarily, although more preferably, it involves halting the progression of the disease permanently. This can be monitored by routine methods or can be monitored according to diagnostic methods of the invention discussed herein.

5 Such amounts will depend, of course, on the particular condition being treated, the severity of the condition, the individual patient parameters including age, physical condition, size and weight, the duration of the treatment, the nature of concurrent therapy (if any), the specific route of administration and like factors within the knowledge and expertise of the health practitioner. These factors are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art and can
10 be addressed with no more than routine experimentation. It is generally preferred that a maximum dose of the individual components or combinations thereof be used, that is, the highest safe dose according to sound medical judgment. It will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art, however, that a patient may insist upon a lower dose or tolerable dose for medical reasons, psychological reasons or for virtually any other reasons.

15 The pharmaceutical compositions used in the foregoing methods preferably are sterile and contain an effective amount of SAP or nucleic acid encoding SAP for producing the desired response in a unit of weight or volume suitable for administration to a patient. The response can, for example, be measured by determining the signal transduction enhanced or inhibited by the SAP composition via a reporter system as described herein, by measuring
20 downstream effects such as gene expression, or by measuring the physiological effects of the SAP composition, such as regression of a tumor or decrease of disease symptoms. Likewise, the effects of antisense SAP molecules can be readily determined by measuring expression of the individual genes in cells to which an antisense composition is added. Other assays will be known to one of ordinary skill in the art and can be employed for measuring the level of the
25 response.

 The doses of SAP polypeptide or nucleic acid administered to a subject can be chosen in accordance with different parameters, in particular in accordance with the mode of administration used and the state of the subject. Other factors include the desired period of treatment. In the event that a response in a subject is insufficient at the initial doses applied,
30 higher doses (or effectively higher doses by a different, more localized delivery route) may be employed to the extent that patient tolerance permits.

In general, doses of SAP are formulated and administered in doses between 1 ng and 1 mg, and preferably between 10 ng and 100 µg, according to any standard procedure in the art. Where nucleic acids encoding SAP of variants thereof are employed, doses of between 1 ng and 0.1 mg generally will be formulated and administered according to standard
5 procedures. Other protocols for the administration of SAP compositions will be known to one of ordinary skill in the art, in which the dose amount, schedule of injections, sites of injections, mode of administration (e.g., intra-tumoral) and the like vary from the foregoing. Administration of SAP compositions to mammals other than humans, ~~for testing~~
purposes or veterinary therapeutic purposes, is carried out under substantially the same
10 conditions as described above.

When administered, the pharmaceutical preparations of the invention are applied in pharmaceutically-acceptable amounts and in pharmaceutically-acceptable compositions. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable" means a non-toxic material that does not interfere with the effectiveness of the biological activity of the active ingredients. Such preparations may
15 routinely contain salts, buffering agents, preservatives, compatible carriers, and optionally other therapeutic agents. When used in medicine, the salts should be pharmaceutically acceptable, but non-pharmaceutically acceptable salts may conveniently be used to prepare pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof and are not excluded from the scope of the invention. Such pharmacologically and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts include, but are not
20 limited to, those prepared from the following acids: hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, nitric, phosphoric, maleic, acetic, salicylic, citric, formic, malonic, succinic, and the like. Also, pharmaceutically-acceptable salts can be prepared as alkaline metal or alkaline earth salts, such as sodium, potassium or calcium salts.

SAPs may be combined, if desired, with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier. The
25 term "pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier" as used herein means one or more compatible solid or liquid fillers, diluents or encapsulating substances which are suitable for administration into a human. The term "carrier" denotes an organic or inorganic ingredient, natural or synthetic, with which the active ingredient is combined to facilitate the application. The components of the pharmaceutical compositions also are capable of being co-mingled
30 with the molecules of the present invention, and with each other, in a manner such that there is no interaction which would substantially impair the desired pharmaceutical efficacy.

The pharmaceutical compositions may contain suitable buffering agents, including: acetic acid in a salt; citric acid in a salt; boric acid in a salt; and phosphoric acid in a salt.

The pharmaceutical compositions also may contain, optionally, suitable preservatives, such as: benzalkonium chloride; chlorobutanol; parabens and thimerosal.

5 The pharmaceutical compositions may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form and may be prepared by any of the methods well-known in the art of pharmacy. All methods include the step of bringing the active agent into association with a carrier which constitutes one or more accessory ingredients. In general, the compositions are prepared by uniformly
10 and intimately bringing the active compound into association with a liquid carrier, a finely divided solid carrier, or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the product.

Compositions suitable for oral administration may be presented as discrete units, such as capsules, tablets, lozenges, each containing a predetermined amount of the active compound. Other compositions include suspensions in aqueous liquids or non-aqueous liquids such as a syrup, elixir or an emulsion.

15 Compositions suitable for parenteral administration conveniently comprise a sterile aqueous or non-aqueous preparation of SAP polypeptides or nucleic acids, which is preferably isotonic with the blood of the recipient. This preparation may be formulated according to known methods using suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents. The sterile injectable preparation also may be a sterile injectable solution or
20 suspension in a non-toxic parenterally-acceptable diluent or solvent, for example, as a solution in 1,3-butane diol. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that may be employed are water, Ringer's solution, and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conventionally employed as a solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose any bland fixed oil may be employed including synthetic mono- or di-glycerides. In
25 addition, fatty acids such as oleic acid may be used in the preparation of injectables. Carrier formulation suitable for oral, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, etc. administrations can be found in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA.

In another aspect of the invention, SAP polypeptides or nucleic acid are used in the manufacture of a medicament for modulating a TGF- β superfamily ligand response. The
30 medicament can be placed in a vial and be incorporated into a kit to be used for increasing a subject's response to one or more TGF- β family members. In certain embodiments, other

medicaments which modulate the same responses or which favorably affect the SAP compositions can also be included in the same kit. The kits can include instructions or other printed material on how to administer the SAP compositions and any other components of the kit.

5

Examples

Materials and Methods

DNA constructs

pEG-Smad6S, pEG-Smad6SN, pEG-Smad6SC, pEG-Smad7, pEG-Smad7^Δ and pEG-Smad7C were made by PCR and inserted into pEG202 (Golemis et al., Analysis of protein interactions. p. 20.1.1-20.1.40 *In* F. M. Ausubel, R. Brent, R.E. Kingston, D.D. Moore, J.G. Seidman, J.A. Smith and K. Struhl (eds.), Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, vol. 3, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999). pEG-Smad2 and pEG-Smad4 was obtained from Dr. R. Derynk (Wu et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 17:2521-2528., 1997). 6xMyc-Smad1, 6xMyc-Smad2 and 6xMyc-Smad3 were provided by Dr. K. Miyazono (Nishihara et al., *Genes. Cells.* 3:613-623, 1998). 6xMyc-Smad4, 6xMyc-Smad6S, 6xMyc-Smad6L and 6xMyc-Smad7 were constructed using 6xMyc-pCDNA3 (Nishihara et al., 1998). Flag-AMSH, Flag-AMSH(DBS2), Flag-AMSH(DBS3), Flag-AMSH(DC2), Flag-AMSH(DJS), Flag-AMSH(DNL) were described previously (Tanaka et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 274:19129-19135, 1999). Flag-AMSH(Δ102-233), Flag-AMSH(106-424) and Flag-AMSH(234-424) were generated by PCR and subcloned into pCMV2-Flag vector (Sigma).

20

Yeast two-hybrid screening

Several constructs of LexA-Smad fusions in the pEG202 vector and human fetal brain library in the pJG4-5 vector were used. Library screens were carried out using Leu2 and β-galactosidase reporters (pSH18-34) within the yeast strain, EGY48. In brief, EGY48 cells were transformed with pEG-Smad6SN, pSH18-34 and library and plated in galactose-containing medium without histidine. Positive colonies were picked 3-5 days after plating (Golemis et al., 1999). Subsequently, positive colonies were tested again and confirmed as real positive clones.

30

DNA sequence analysis

The nucleotide sequences were determined for both strands with an ABI310 DNA sequencer.

5 *Immunoprecipitation and Western blotting*

Combinations of Smads and AMSH or its mutants in the presence or absence of ALK5ca or ALK6ca were transfected in COS7 cells at 1.2×10^6 cells/10 cm-dish using Eugene 6 (Boehringer Mannheim). Forty hours after transfection, the cells were lysed in ml of lysis buffer (20 mM Tris [pH 7.4], 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 1% Triton X-100, 1 mM PMSF and 100 units/ml Trasylol). The cell lysates were precleared with protein G-Sepharose beads (Pharmacia) and incubated with Flag M5 antibody (Sigma) for 2 h at 4°C. Subsequently, protein G-Sepharose beads were added to the reaction mixture and samples were incubated for 30 min at 4°C. After washing the immunoprecipitates with lysis buffer three times, immunoprecipitates and aliquots of cell lysates before immunoprecipitation were separated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and transferred to a Hybond-C extra membrane (Amersham). The membrane was then probed with Flag M5 or Myc (9E10 monoclonal antibody; Santa Cruz) antibody. Primary antibodies were detected with a horseradish peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-mouse antibody (Amersham) and a chemiluminescent substrate.

20

[32 P]Orthophosphate labeling of cells, tryptic phosphopeptide mapping and two-dimensional phosphoamino acid analysis

COS7 cells were labeled in phosphate-free medium for 3 h. Subsequently, 1 mCi/ml [32 P]orthophosphate was added in the culture medium. After 40 min, the cells were lysed, immunoprecipitated with anti-FlagM5 antibody, separated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and transferred to a Hybond-C extra membrane. For tryptic phosphopeptide mapping, AMSH bands were localized by exposure on a FujiX Bio-Imager (Fuji), excised from the filter and digested *in situ* with trypsin (modified sequencing grade; Promega). Two-dimensional phosphopeptide mapping was done using the Hunter thin-layer electrophoresis apparatus (HTLE-7000; CBS Scientific), essentially as described by Boyle et al. (*Methods Enzymol.* 201:110-149, 1991). First dimension electrophoresis was performed in pH 1.9

30

buffer (formic acid:glacial acetic acid:water; 44:156:1800) for 23 min at 2000 V, and second dimension ascending thin-layer chromatography in isobutyric acid buffer (isobutyric acid:n-butanol:pyridine:glacial acetic acid:water; 1250:38:96:58:558). After exposure, phosphopeptides were eluted from the plates in the pH 1.9 buffer and lyophilized. The fractions were then subjected to two-dimensional phosphoamino acid analysis.

Example 1: Isolation of Smad Associating Proteins

To explore further the mode of actions of Smad6 and Smad7, proteins that interact with Smad6 and Smad7 have been isolated using the yeast two hybrid system.

Using the N-terminal half of Smad6 MH2 domain (pEG-Smad6SN) (Fig. 1) as a bait to screen a human fetal brain library (4×10^6 colonies), 12 kinds of distinct positive cDNA clones encoding 7 known and 5 unknown proteins were obtained; the latter molecules were termed Smad6 associating proteins (SAPs) 1 through 5 (Fig. 2). Subsequently, the interaction of identified molecules with Smad2, Smad4, Smad6 or Smad7 was investigated using the yeast two hybrid system. As seen in Fig. 2, all clones except for dodecenoyl-CoA could bind to either Smad6S or Smad7. However, no or very weak interactions between Smad2 or Smad4 and the identified molecules were seen. Among the novel cDNAs, SAPs 1-3 were further analyzed, of which multiple positive clones were isolated (Fig. 2). The entire coding sequences for SAP1 (Fig. 3 and SEQ ID NO:1) and SAP2 (Fig. 4 and SEQ ID NO:3) were obtained as expressed sequence tags (ESTs), but no ESTs encoding SAP3 (SEQ ID NO:5) could be found.

SAP1 was previously isolated and termed "associated molecule with the SH3 domain of STAM" (AMSH) (Tanaka et al., 1999). Thus, SAP1 is called AMSH in the following. AMSH was originally found to interact with the signal transducing adaptor molecule (STAM). AMSH has three unique motifs in its structure, i.e., a nuclear translocational signal, an SH3 binding site (SXXP; SEQ ID NO:7) and a JAB1 subdomain homologous region (JSH) (Fig. 5).

In order to investigate whether AMSH interacts with Smads *in vivo*, COS7 cells were transfected with Flag-tagged AMSH and different Myc-tagged-Smads (Smad1, Smad4, Smad6S, Smad6L and Smad7) in the absence and presence of constitutively active ALK6 (ALK6ca). Samples were then subjected to immunoprecipitation with Flag antibodies and

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blotting with Myc antibodies. AMSH interacted with Smad4, Smad6S and Smad6L weakly in the absence of constitutively activate ALK6 in COS7 cells. Interestingly, upon transfection with constitutively active ALK6 the interaction of AMSH with Smad4, Smad6S and Smad6L increased. Smad7 constitutively bound to AMSH. However, Smad1 did not
5 associate with AMSH.

In a similar experiment, ALK5-dependent interaction of AMSH was explored. COS7 cells were transfected with Flag-tagged AMSH and different Myc-tagged Smads (Smad2, Smad3, Smad4, Smad6S, Smad6L and Smad7) in the absence and presence of constitutively activated ALK5. Interestingly, activated ALK5 (ALK5ca) promoted the interaction of
10 AMSH with Smad2 and in particular Smad3, while Smad4, Smad6S, Smad6L and Smad7 interact with AMSH independent of ALK5.

It is known that Smad6 inhibits the BMP pathway more efficiently than the TGF- β pathway (Hata et al., *Genes Devel.* 12:186-197, 1998). Since BMP receptors possess an intrinsic serine/threonine kinase, it was examined whether or not AMSH was phosphorylated, and it was determined that AMSH was phosphorylated by activated ALK6. However, AMSH
15 might not be a direct substrate for the serine/threonine kinase of ALK6 because the phosphorylation of AMSH was detected 4 h after the treatment with OP-1 in COS7 cells which were reconstituted with AMSH, ALK6 and BMPR-II.

TGF- β family signaling has been known to be mediated in part through MAP kinase pathways (Atfi et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 272:1429-1432, 1997; Sano et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 274:8949-8957, 1999). Therefore, the effect of MAP kinase inhibitors was investigated on the phosphorylation of AMSH. Cells were incubated with inhibitors 3 h before the addition of [32 P]orthophosphate, SB203580, a p38 inhibitor, inhibited the phosphorylation of AMSH in a dose-dependent manner, whereas PD98059, an ERK inhibitor, had no effect. The effect
25 of the third MAP kinase pathway, JNK, on the phosphorylation of AMSH was not investigated because no commercial inhibitor is available. The MAP kinases that mainly contribute to the phosphorylation of AMSH are confirmed using dominant negative JNK and p38 in phosphorylation experiments as described above.

Often, the phosphorylation status of a protein correlates within biological activity. Thus, tryptic phosphopeptide mapping of AMSH stimulated with ALK6ca we preformed was
30 performed. Four major phosphopeptides were induced by ALK6ca. Phosphoamino acid

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analysis revealed that only serine residues were phosphorylated. The exact position of the phosphorylated serine residues in the phosphopeptides is identified by, e.g., amino acid sequencing of the phosphopeptides.

Deletion mutants of AMSH were made to find important regions for biological activity (Fig. 5). The *in vivo* interaction with Smad6L was investigated for two of the mutants which were found to associate with Smad6L in the presence of active ALK6. In particular, AMSH(DC2) which lacks the C-terminal half of AMSH interacted with Smad6L. ~~Interacted more efficiently with Smad6L in the presence of ALK6ca. Deletion of the same~~ experiment using all mutants depicted in Fig. 5 is performed to identify portions of AMSH which interact with Smad6 and Smad7.

The phosphorylation of AMSH mutants by ALK6ca was tested as well. AMSH(DBS2) was highly phosphorylated. On the other hand, the phosphorylation of AMSH(DC2) was very weak. These observations suggest that the N-terminal part of AMSH is involved in the interaction with Smad6L, whereas phosphorylation sites are localized in the C-terminal part. The phosphorylation of other mutants depicted in Fig. 5 by ALK6ca also is performed to confirm results and further localize phosphorylation sites.

The effect of AMSH and mutants thereof are tested in a luciferase assay for TGF- β -family-dependent activity (e.g., Jonk et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 273:21145-21152, 1998) as well as for their effect in a *Xenopus* animal cap assay (e.g., Nakao et al., *Nature* 389:631-635, 1997).

A *Xenopus* homologue of SAP2 was recently identified and termed XDRP1. (GenBank accession number AB030502; Funakoshi et al., *EMBO J.* 18:5009-5018, 1999). It was reported that XDRP1 binds to cyclin A and inhibits its degradation. Since cyclin A is involved in the cell cycle, it is possible that Smad6L regulates the cell cycle through the interaction with SAP2. Alternatively, SAP2 may regulate the degradation of Smad6L.

Other aspects of the invention will be clear to the skilled artisan and need not be repeated here. Each reference cited herein is incorporated by reference in its entirety.

The terms and expressions which have been employed are used as terms of description and not of limitation, and there is no intention in the use of such terms and expressions of excluding any equivalents of the features shown and described or portions thereof, it being recognized that various modifications are possible within the scope of the invention.

We claim:

CLAIMS

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of
(a) nucleic acid molecules which hybridize under stringent conditions to a molecule
consisting of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5 and which
5 code for a polypeptide which binds Smad6,

(b) nucleic acid molecules that differ from the nucleic acid molecules of (a) in codon
sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, and

(c) complements of (a) and (b).

10 2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid
molecule consists of SEQ ID NO:3.

3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid
molecule consists of SEQ ID NO:5.

15

4. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of (a) a unique
fragment of nucleotides 1-2399 of SEQ ID NO:3 between 12 and 2398 nucleotides in length,
(b) a unique fragment of nucleotides 1-855 of SEQ ID NO:5 between 12 and 854 nucleotides
in length, (c) complements of "(a)" and (d) complements of "(b)", provided that the nucleic
20 acid molecule excludes sequences consisting of GenBank accession numbers AI219112 and
N33797, AB030502.

25

5. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, wherein the isolated nucleic acid
molecule consists of at least 22, 25, 30, 40, 50, 75 or 100 contiguous nucleotides.

6. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, wherein the isolated nucleic acid
molecule consists of between 20 and 32 contiguous nucleotides.

7. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of any of claims
30 1, 2, 3 or 4 operably linked to a promoter.

8. A host cell transformed or transfected with the expression vector of claim 7.

9. A method for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 8 under conditions which permit the exp[ression of polypeptide.

5

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising isolating the polypeptide.

11. A transgenic non-human animal comprising the expression vector of claim 7.

10 12. An isolated polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of any of claims 1, 2 or 3.

13. The isolated polypeptide of claim 12, wherein the isolated polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of molecules comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, a fragment or functional variant of SEQ ID NO:4, and a fragment or
15 functional variant of SEQ ID NO:6.

14. An isolated polypeptide comprising a fragment or functional variant of SEQ ID NO:2.

20 15. The isolated polypeptide of claim 14, wherein the isolated polypeptide consists of a fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-101+234-424, 106-424 and 234-424.

16. An isolated polypeptide which binds selectively a polypeptide encoded by the isolated
25 nucleic acid molecule of any of claims 1, 2 or 3, provided that the isolated polypeptide is not a Smad, STAM or cyclin polypeptide.

17. The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the isolated polypeptide binds to an epitope defined by a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4 or 6.

30

18. The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the isolated polypeptide is an antibody

- 44 -

fragment selected from the group consisting of a Fab fragment, a F(ab)₂ fragment or a fragment including a CDR3 region selective for a SAP polypeptide.

19. The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the isolated polypeptide is a
5 monoclonal antibody, a humanized antibody or a chimeric antibody.

20. An isolated complex of polypeptides comprising:

a polypeptide as claimed in claim 12 bound to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of Smad6, Smad7 and fragments thereof.

10

21. A method for modulating TGF- β superfamily signal transduction in a mammalian cell, comprising

contacting the mammalian cell with an amount of an agent which increases the amount of a Smad associating protein selected from the group consisting of SAP1/AMSH
15 (SEQ ID NO:2), SAP2 (SEQ ID NO:4), SAP3 (SEQ ID NO:6), Hsp40 homolog (U40992), Uba80 (X63237), Tax-1 binding protein (U33822), rabaptin-5 (NM_004703), and 26S proteinase S5a (U51007) or a fragment thereof in the cell effective to reduce TGF- β superfamily signal transduction in the mammalian cell.

20 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a nucleic acid molecule.

23. A method for regulating the cell cycle in a mammalian cell, comprising

contacting the mammalian cell with an amount of an agent which increases the amount of SAP2 (SEQ ID NO:4), or a fragment thereof, in the cell effective to bind a cyclin
25 and regulate the cell cycle in the mammalian cell.

24. A method for identifying lead compounds for a pharmacological agent, comprising forming a mixture comprising a Smad6 or Smad7 polypeptide, a SAP polypeptide, and a candidate pharmacological agent,

30 incubating the mixture under conditions which, in the absence of the candidate pharmacological agent, permit a first amount of specific binding of the SAP polypeptide by

the Smad6 or Smad7 polypeptide, and

detecting a test amount of the specific binding of the SAP polypeptide by the Smad6 or Smad7 polypeptide, wherein reduction of the test amount of specific binding relative to the first amount of specific binding indicates that the candidate pharmacological agent is a lead compound for a pharmacological agent which disrupts the Smad6-SAP or Smad7-SAP binding, and wherein increase of the test amount of specific binding relative to the first amount of specific binding indicates that the candidate pharmacological agent is a lead compound for a pharmacological agent which enhances the Smad6-SAP or Smad7-SAP binding.

10

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the SAP polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SAP1/AMSH, SAP2, SAP3 and fragments thereof.

15

26. A method for identifying lead compounds for a pharmacological agent, comprising forming a mixture comprising an ALK kinase, a Smad polypeptide, a SAP polypeptide, and a candidate pharmacological agent,

incubating the mixture under conditions which, in the absence of the candidate pharmacological agent, permit a first amount of specific binding of the SAP polypeptide by the Smad polypeptide, and

20

detecting a test amount of the specific binding of the SAP polypeptide by the Smad polypeptide, wherein reduction of the test amount of specific binding relative to the first amount of specific binding indicates that the candidate pharmacological agent is a lead compound for a pharmacological agent which disrupts the Smad-SAP binding, and wherein increase of the test amount of specific binding relative to the first amount of specific binding indicates that the candidate pharmacological agent is a lead compound for a pharmacological agent which enhances the Smad-SAP binding.

25

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the SAP polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SAP1/AMSH, SAP2, SAP3 and fragments thereof.

30

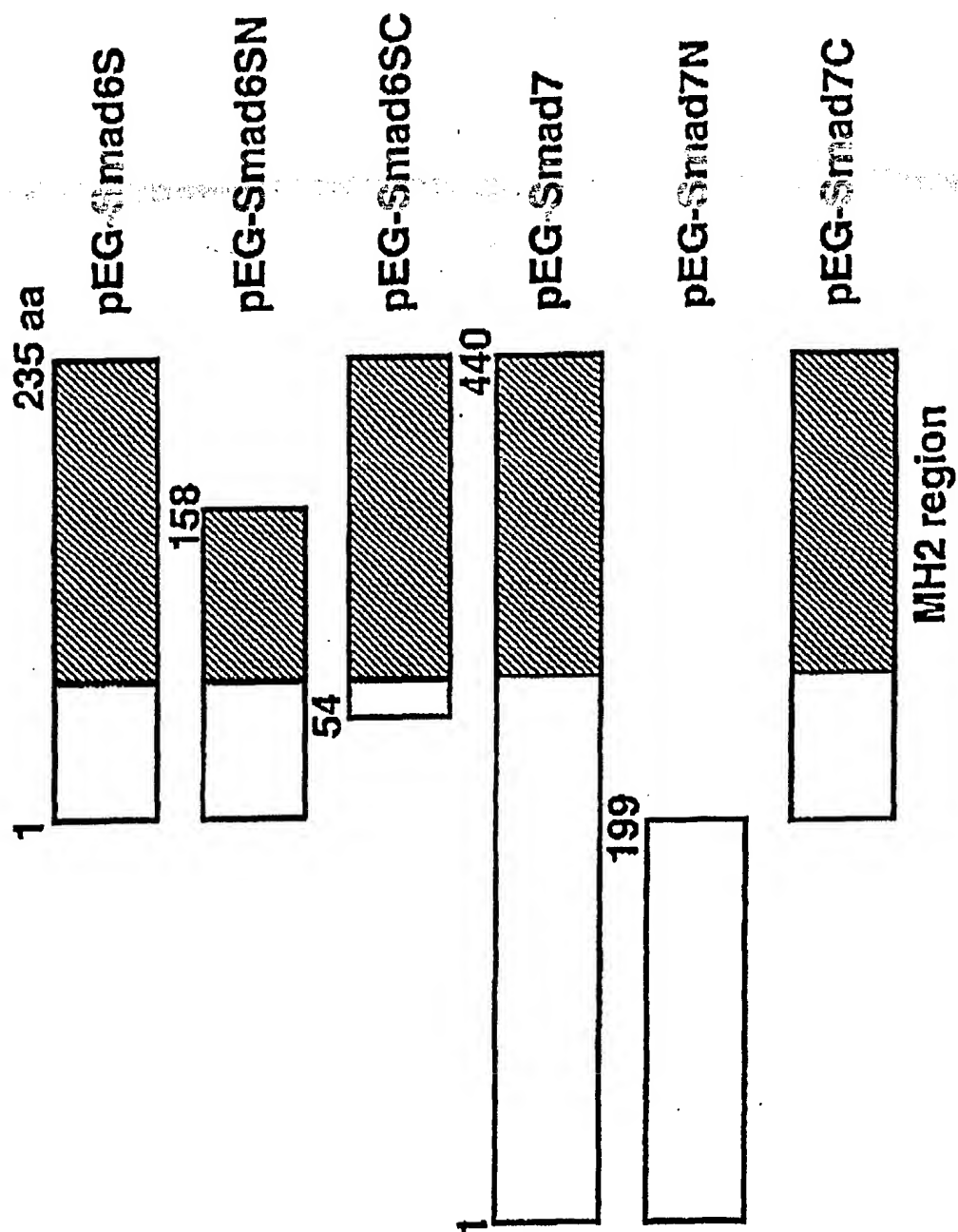
28. The method of claim 26, wherein the Smad polypeptide is selected from the group

-46-

consisting of Smad2, Smad3, Smad4, Smad6, Smad7 and fragments thereof.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein the ALK kinase is selected from the group consisting of ALK5, constitutively activated ALK5, ALK6, constitutively activated ALK6
5 and fragments thereof having kinase activity.

Fig. 1



Clone No.	Clone Name	Number	ShortSmad6	ShortSmad6N	ShortSmad6C	Smad7	Smad7N	Smad7C	Smad2	Smad4
2	AMSH (SAP1)	39	++	++	-	++	++	++	-	-
8	STAM	2	++	++	-	++	+	+	-	-
14	Hsp40 homolog	1	-	++	++	-	-	-	+	-
15	SAP4	1	++	++	-	++	-	++	-	-
25	Dodecenoyl-CoA	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	SAP5	1	++	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Uba80	5	++	++	-	++	-	++	-	-
31	Tax-1 binding protein	3	+	++	-	++	-	++	-	-
32	SAP2	10	++	-	-	++	+	+	-	-
37	AMSH (SAP1) (different from clone 2)	2	++	++	++	++	-	++	-	-
57	Rabaptin-5	2	+	++	-	++	++	+	-	-
59	26S proteinase S5a	1	++	++	+	++	-	-	-	+
60	SAP3	2	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	-
61	Tax-1 binding protein (different from clone 31)	2	++	++	-	++	-	++	+	-
72	SAP2 (different from clone 32 and 93)	1	++	++	+	++	+	+	-	-
93	SAP2 (different from clones 32 and 72)	1	++	++	-	++	-	++	-	-
98	Rabaptin-5 (different from clone 57)	1	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	-

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

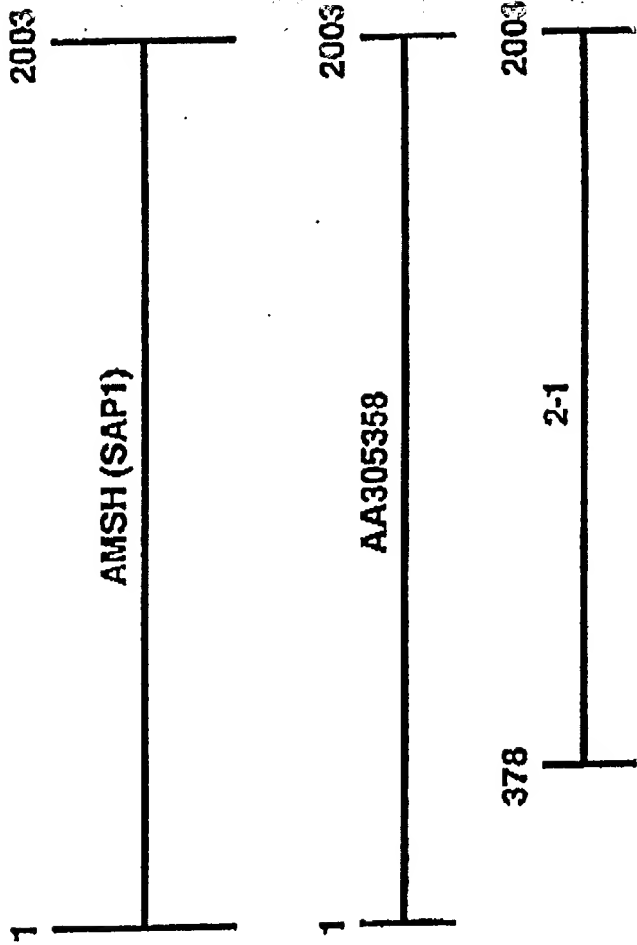


Fig. 4

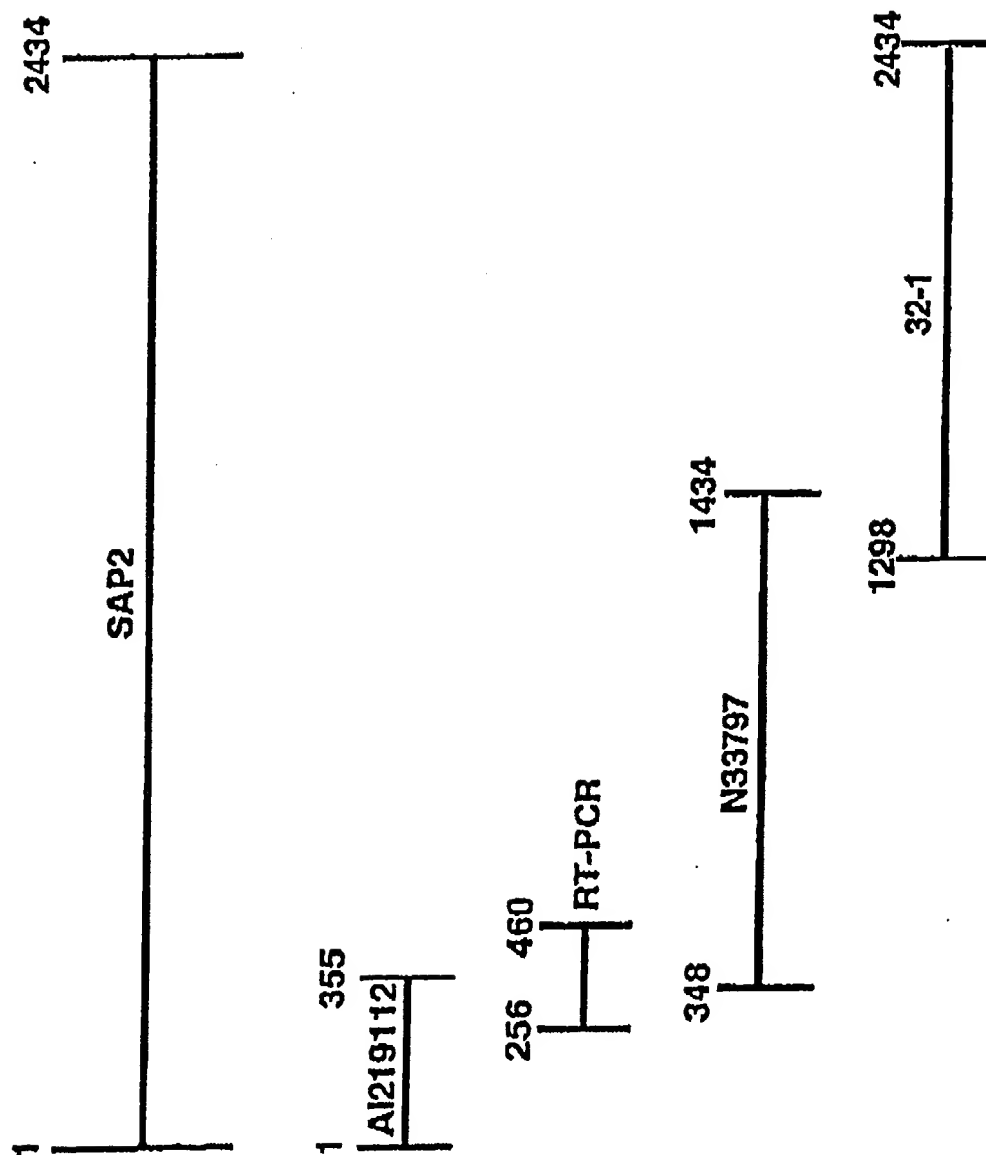
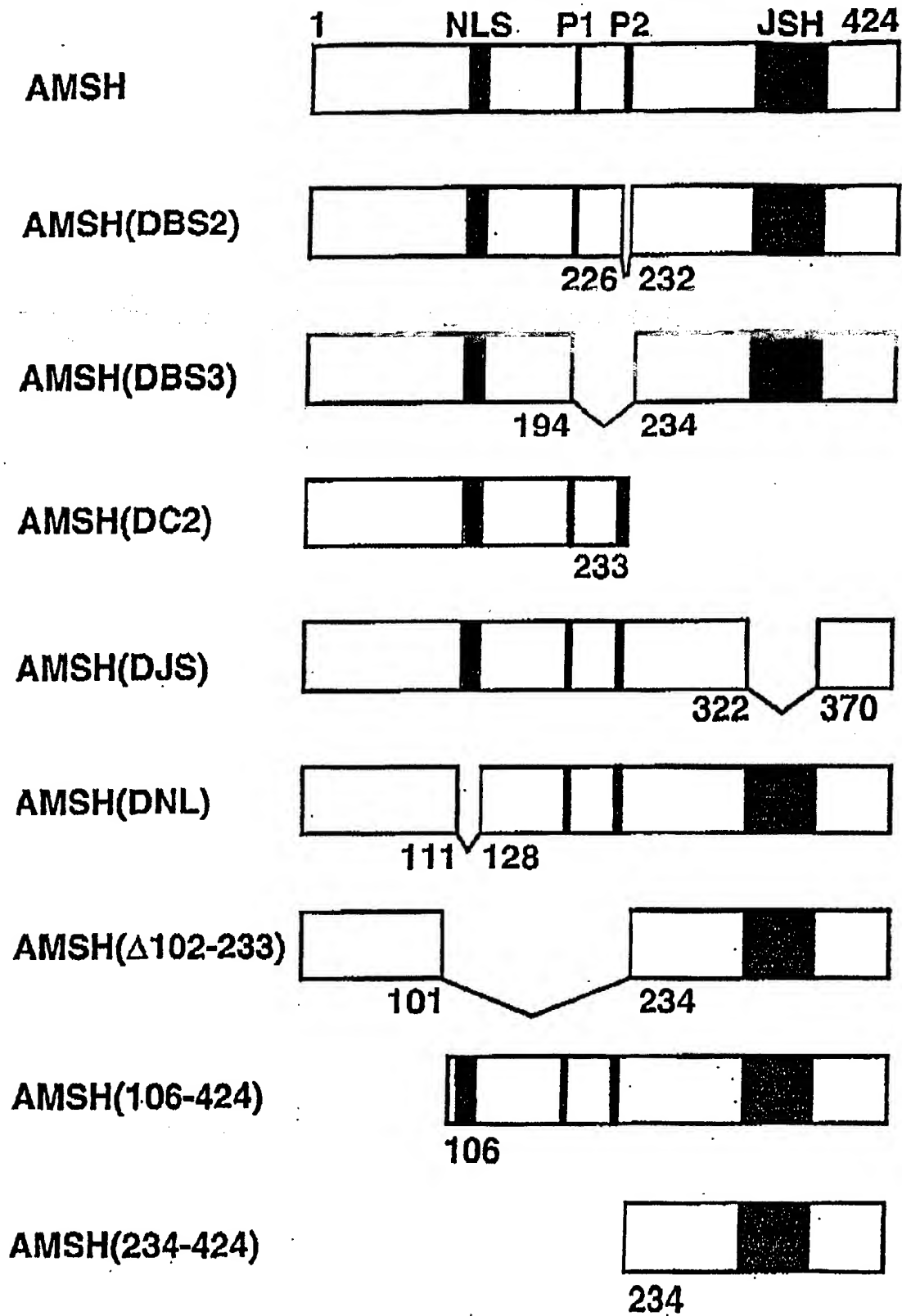


Fig. 5



- 1 -

SEQUENCE LISTING

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	cct aga cca atg cag gcc ttg tta cag att cag cag ggt tta cag aca Pro Arg Ala Met Gln Ala Leu Leu Gln Ile Gln Gln Gly Leu Gln Thr 460 465 470	1685
	tta gca acg gaa gcc ccg ggc ctc atc cca ggg ttt act cct ggc ttg Leu Ala Thr Glu Ala Pro Gly Leu Ile Pro Gly Phe Thr Pro Gly Leu 475 480 485	1733
20	ggg gca tta gga agc act gga ggc tct tcg gga act aat gga tct aac Gly Ala Leu Gly Ser Thr Gly Gly Ser Ser Gly Thr Asn Gly Ser Asn 490 495 500	1781
25	gcc aca cct agt gaa aac aca agt ccc aca gca gga acc act gaa cct Ala Thr Pro Ser Glu Asn Thr Ser Pro Thr Ala Gly Thr Thr Glu Pro 505 510 515 520	1829
30	gga cat cag cag ttt att cag cag atg ctg cag gct ctt gct gga gta Gly His Gln Gln Phe Ile Gln Gln Met Leu Gln Ala Leu Ala Gly Val 525 530 535	1877
35	aat cct cag cta cag aat cca gaa gtc aga ttt cag caa caa ctg gaa Asn Pro Gln Leu Gln Asn Pro Glu Val Arg Phe Gln Gln Leu Glu 540 545 550	1925
	caa ctc agt gca atg gga ttt ttg aac cgt gaa gca aac ttg caa gct Gln Leu Ser Ala Met Gly Phe Leu Asn Arg Glu Ala Asn Leu Gln Ala 555 560 565	1973
40	cta ata gca aca gga ggt gat atc aat gca gct att gaa agg tta ctg Leu Ile Ala Thr Gly Gly Asp Ile Asn Ala Ala Ile Glu Arg Leu Leu 570 575 580	2021
45	ggc tcc cag cca tca tagcagcatt tctgtatctt gaaaaaatgt aatttatctt Gly Ser Gln Pro Ser 585	2076
50	tgataacggc tcttaaactt taaaatacct gctttatttc attttgactc ttggaattct gtgctgttat aaacaaaccc aatatgatgc attttaaggt ggagtacagt aagatgtgtg ggtttttctg tatttttctt ttctggaaca gtgggaatta aggctactgc atgcatcact	2136 2196 2256
55	tctgcattta ttgtaatttt ttaaaaacat caccttttat agttgggtga ccagattttg tcttgcattct gtccagttta ttgtcttttt aaacatttagc ctatggtagt aatttatgta	2316 2376
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<213> Homo sapiens

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Glu Pro Lys Ile Met Lys Val Thr Val Lys Thr Pro Lys Glu Lys Glu
 35 40 45

25

Glu Phe Ala Val Pro Glu Asn Ser Ser Val Gln Gln Phe Lys Glu Glu
 50 55 60

30

Ile Ser Lys Arg Phe Lys Ser His Thr Asp Gln Leu Val Leu Ile Phe
 65 70 75 80

35

Ala Gly Lys Ile Leu Lys Asp Gln Asp Thr Leu Ser Gln His Gly Ile
 85 90 95

His Asp Gly Leu Thr Val His Leu Val Ile Lys Thr Gln Asn Arg Pro
 100 105 110

40

Gln Asp His Ser Ala Gln Gln Thr Asn Thr Ala Gly Ser Asn Val Thr
 115 120 125

45

Thr Ser Ser Thr Pro Asn Ser Asn Ser Thr Ser Gly Ser Ala Thr Ser
 130 135 140

50

Asn Pro Phe Gly Leu Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Leu Ala Gly Leu Ser Ser
 145 150 155 160

Leu Gly Leu Asn Thr Thr Asn Phe Ser Glu Leu Gln Ser Gln Met Gln
 165 170 175

55

Arg Gln Leu Leu Ser Asn Pro Glu Met Met Val Gln Ile Met Glu Asn
 180 185 190

60

- 10 -

Pro Phe Val Gln Ser Met Leu Ser Asn Pro Asp Leu Met Arg Gln Leu
 195 200 205

5 Ile Met Ala Asn Pro Gln Met Gln Gln Leu Ile Gln Arg Asn Pro Glu
 210 215 220

10 Ile Ser His Met Leu Asn Asn Pro Asp Ile Met Arg Gln Thr Leu Glu
 225 230 235 240

Leu Ala Arg Asn Pro Ala Met Met Gln Gln Met Met Arg Asn Gln Asp
 245 250 255

Arg Ala Leu Ser Asn Leu Glu Ser Ile Pro Gly Gly Tyr Asn Ala Leu
 260 265 270

20 Arg Arg Met Tyr Thr Asp Ile Gln Glu Pro Met Leu Ser Ala Ala Gln
 275 280 285

25 Glu Gln Phe Gly Gly Asn Pro Phe Ala Ser Leu Val Ser Asn Thr Ser
 290 295 300

30 Ser Gly Glu Gly Ser Gln Pro Ser Arg Thr Glu Asn Arg Asp Pro Leu
 305 310 315 320

Pro Asn Pro Trp Ala Pro Gln Thr Ser Gln Ser Ser Ser Ala Ser Ser
 325 330 335

35 Gly Thr Ala Ser Thr Val Gly Gly Thr Thr Gly Ser Thr Ala Ser Gly
 340 345 350

40 Thr Ser Gly Gln Ser Thr Thr Ala Pro Asn Leu Val Pro Gly Val Gly
 355 360 365

45 Ala Ser Met Phe Asn Thr Pro Gly Met Gln Ser Leu Leu Gln Gln Ile
 370 375 380

50 Thr Glu Asn Pro Gln Leu Met Gln Asn Met Leu Ser Ala Pro Tyr Met
 385 390 395 400

Arg Ser Met Met Gln Ser Leu Ser Gln Asn Pro Asp Leu Ala Ala Gln
 405 410 415

55 Met Met Leu Asn Asn Pro Leu Phe Ala Gly Asn Pro Gln Leu Gln Glu
 420 425 430

60

- 11 -

Gln Met Arg Gln Gln Leu Pro Thr Phe Leu Gln Gln Met Gln Asn Pro
 435 440 445

5 Asp Thr Leu Ser Ala Met Ser Asn Pro Arg Ala Met Gln Ala Leu Leu
 450 455 460

10 Gln Ile Gln Gln Gly Leu Gln Thr Leu Ala Thr Glu Ala Pro Gly Leu
 465 470 475 480

15 Phe Pro Gly Phe Thr Pro Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu Gly Ser Thr Gly Gly
 485 490 495

Ser Ser Gly Thr Asn Gly Ser Asn Ala Thr Pro Ser Glu Asn Thr Ser
 500 505 510

20 Pro Thr Ala Gly Thr Thr Glu Pro Gly His Gln Gln Phe Ile Gln Gln
 515 520 525

25 Met Leu Gln Ala Leu Ala Gly Val Asn Pro Gln Leu Gln Asn Pro Glu
 530 535 540

30 Val Arg Phe Gln Gln Gln Leu Glu Gln Leu Ser Ala Met Gly Phe Leu
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35 Asn Arg Glu Ala Asn Leu Gln Ala Leu Ile Ala Thr Gly Gly Asp Ile
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 Glu Phe Gly Thr Arg Arg Gly Pro Pro Leu Ser Leu Arg Phe Ala Leu
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- 12 -

	ccg tcg ggt acg gga agg tcc aag ccg ctg ccg ggt gcc cga ggg ccg	96
	Pro Ser Gly Thr Gly Arg Ser Lys Pro Leu Pro Gly Ala Arg Gly Pro	
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5	tcg tgg ccg ccg tcg cca cgg gtc cca atg gag ccg ccg aat ctc tat	144
	Ser Trp Pro Pro Ser Pro Arg Val Pro Met Glu Pro Pro Asn Leu Tyr	
	35 40 45	
10	ccg gtg aag ctc tac gtg tac gac ctg tcc aaa ggc ctg gcc cgg cgg	192
	Pro Val Lys Leu Tyr Val Tyr Asp Leu Ser Lys Gly Leu Ala Arg Arg	
	50 55 60	
	ctc agc ccc atc atg ctg ggg aaa cca ctg gaa ggc atc tgg cac aca	240
	Leu Ser Pro Ile Met Leu Gly Lys Ser Leu Glu Gly Ala Thr His Tyr	
	65 70 75 80	
	tcc ata gtt gtg cac aag gat gag ttc ttc ttc ggc agt ggt ggt atc	288
	Ser Ile Val Val His Lys Asp Glu Phe Phe Phe Gly Ser Gly Gly Ile	
20	85 90 95	
	tcc agc tgc ccc ccg gga ggg aca ttg ctt ggg cct cca gac tct gtg	336
	Ser Ser Cys Pro Pro Gly Gly Thr Leu Leu Gly Pro Pro Asp Ser Val	
	100 105 110	
25	gtt gat gtg ggg agt aca gaa gtc aca gaa gaa atc ttc ttc tgg agt	384
	Val Asp Val Gly Ser Thr Glu Val Thr Glu Glu Ile Phe Phe Trp Ser	
	115 120 125	
30	acc tct cct ccc tgg ggg agt ccc tgt ttc cga ggt gag gcc tac aac	432
	Thr Ser Pro Pro Trp Gly Ser Pro Cys Phe Arg Gly Glu Ala Tyr Asn	
	130 135 140	
	ctc ttt gaa cac aat tgt aac acc ttc agc aac gaa gtg gca cag ttc	480
35	Leu Phe Glu His Asn Cys Asn Thr Phe Ser Asn Glu Val Ala Gln Phe	
	145 150 155 160	
	ctg act ggg ccg aag att cct tct tac atc aca gac ctg ccc tct gaa	528
	Leu Thr Gly Arg Lys Ile Pro Ser Tyr Ile Thr Asp Leu Pro Ser Glu	
40	165 170 175	
	gtt ctc tcc acg ccc ttt gga cag gca ctt cgg ccc ctc ctg gac tcc	576
	Val Leu Ser Thr Pro Phe Gly Gln Ala Leu Arg Pro Leu Leu Asp Ser	
	180 185 190	
45	att cag atc cag cct cca gga ggg agc tcc gtg ggc aga ccc aac ggc	624
	Ile Gln Ile Gln Pro Pro Gly Gly Ser Ser Val Gly Arg Pro Asn Gly	
	195 200 205	
50	cag agc taacaggact gcctgggacc gccctgcctc accagggctt ttccttttta	680
	Gln Ser	
	210	
	aacaaaacaa accctaccag atttctattt tataatttta catcagagct aacaaccagg	740
55	ggacggcttt ttaaatttcc caggggaagga gaccgtcagg ccgcatgtag acaatgctgc	800
	taagaaacag aacaaaatgc cacccttct aatagtatta tactaattta ttaagaaaaa	860
60	aaaaaaaaa aaaaaactcg ag	882

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 Pro Ser Gly Thr Gly Arg Ser Lys Pro Leu Pro Gly Ala Arg Gly Pro
 20 20 25 30
 Ser Trp Pro Pro Ser Pro Arg Val Pro Met Glu Pro Pro Asn Leu Tyr
 35 40 45
 25 Pro Val Lys Leu Tyr Val Tyr Asp Leu Ser Lys Gly Leu Ala Arg Arg
 50 55 60
 30 Leu Ser Pro Ile Met Leu Gly Lys Gln Leu Glu Gly Ile Trp His Thr
 65 70 75 80
 Ser Ile Val Val His Lys Asp Glu Phe Phe Phe Gly Ser Gly Gly Ile
 35 85 90 95
 Ser Ser Cys Pro Pro Gly Gly Thr Leu Leu Gly Pro Pro Asp Ser Val
 40 100 105 110
 Val Asp Val Gly Ser Thr Glu Val Thr Glu Glu Ile Phe Phe Trp Ser
 115 120 125
 45 Thr Ser Pro Pro Trp Gly Ser Pro Cys Phe Arg Gly Glu Ala Tyr Asn
 130 135 140
 50 Leu Phe Glu His Asn Cys Asn Thr Phe Ser Asn Glu Val Ala Gln Phe
 145 150 155 160
 Leu Thr Gly Arg Lys Ile Pro Ser Tyr Ile Thr Asp Leu Pro Ser Glu
 55 165 170 175
 Val Leu Ser Thr Pro Phe Gly Gln Ala Leu Arg Pro Leu Leu Asp Ser
 180 185 190
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- 14 -

Ile Gln Ile Gln Pro Pro Gly Gly Ser Ser Val Gly Arg Pro Asn Gly
 195 200 205

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Gln Ser
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10 <210> 7

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ggggacgctg ttttctttta caaagggaaa tctaagttaa tttcaaggca ttcgaa atg 179
 Met
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35

ggg aaa gac tat tat tgc att ttg gga att gag aaa gga gct tca gat 227
 Gly Lys Asp Tyr Tyr Cys Ile Leu Gly Ile Glu Lys Gly Ala Ser Asp
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40

gaa gat att aaa aag gct tac cga aaa caa gcc ctc aaa ttt cat ccg 275
 Glu Asp Ile Lys Lys Ala Tyr Arg Lys Gln Ala Leu Lys Phe His Pro
 20 25 30

45

gac aag aac aaa tct cct cag gca gag gaa aaa ttt aaa gag gtc gca 323
 Asp Lys Asn Lys Ser Pro Gln Ala Glu Glu Lys Phe Lys Glu Val Ala
 35 40 45

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gaa gct tat gaa gta ttg agt gat cct aaa aag aga gaa ata tat gat 371
 Glu Ala Tyr Glu Val Leu Ser Asp Pro Lys Lys Arg Glu Ile Tyr Asp
 50 55 60 65cag ttt ggg gag gaa ggg ttg aaa gga gga gca gga ggt act gat gga 419
 Gln Phe Gly Glu Glu Gly Leu Lys Gly Gly Ala Gly Gly Thr Asp Gly
 70 75 80

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caa gga ggt acc ttc cgg tac acc ttt cat ggc gat cct cat gct aca 467
 Gln Gly Gly Thr Phe Arg Tyr Thr Phe His Gly Asp Pro His Ala Thr
 85 90 95

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ttt gct gca ttt ttc gga ggg tcc aac ccc ttt gaa att ttc ttt gga 515
 Phe Ala Ala Phe Phe Gly Gly Ser Asn Pro Phe Glu Ile Phe Phe Gly

-15-

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5	aga cga atg ggt ggt ggt Arg Arg Met Gly Gly Gly 115	aga gat tct gaa gaa atg Arg Asp Ser Glu Glu Met 120	gaa ata gat ggt Glu Ile Asp Gly 125	563
10	gat cct ttt agt gcc ttt Asp Pro Phe Ser Ala Phe 130	ggt ttc agc atg aat gga Gly Phe Ser Met Asn Gly 135	tat cca aga gac Tyr Pro Arg Asp 140	611
15	agg aat tct gtg ggg cca tcc Arg Asn Ser Val Gly Pro 150	cgc ctc aaa caa gat cct Ser Arg Leu Lys Gln Asp 155	cca gtt att Pro Pro Val Ile 160	659
20	cat gac ttt aga gtc ttc His Glu Leu Arg Val Ser 165	gaa gag ata tat agt ggt Glu Ile Tyr Ser Gly Cys 170	ggt tgt gac gaa Thr Lys 175	707
25	cgg atg aag att tct cga Arg Met Lys Ile Ser Arg 180	aaa agg cta aac gct gat Lys Arg Leu Asn Ala Asp 185	gga agg agt tac Gly Arg Ser Tyr 190	755
30	aga tct gag gac aaa att Arg Ser Glu Asp Lys Ile 195	ctt acc att gag att Leu Thr Ile Glu Ile 200	aaa aaa ggg tgg aaa Lys Lys Gly Trp Lys 205	803
35	gaa ggc acc aaa att act Glu Gly Thr Lys Ile Thr 210	ttt cca aga gaa gga gat Phe Pro Arg Glu Gly Asp 215	gaa aca cca aat Glu Thr Pro Asn 220	851
40	agt att cca gca gac att Ser Ile Pro Ala Asp Ile 230	gtt ttt atc att aaa gac Val Phe Ile Ile Lys Asp 235	aaa gat cat cca Lys Asp Lys Asp His Pro 240	899
45	aaa ttt aaa agg gat gga Lys Phe Lys Arg Asp Gly 245	tca aat ata att tat act Ser Asn Ile Ile Tyr Thr 250	gct aaa att agt Ala Lys Ile Ser 255	947
50	tta cga gag gca ttg tgt Leu Arg Glu Ala Leu Cys 260	ggc tgc tca att aat gta Gly Cys Ser Ile Asn Val 265	cca aca ctg gat Pro Thr Leu Asp 270	995
55	gga aga aac ata cct atg Gly Arg Asn Ile Pro Met 275	tca gta aat gat att gtg Ser Val Asn Asp Ile Val 280	aaa ccc gga atg Lys Pro Gly Met 285	1043
60	agg aga aga att att gga Arg Arg Arg Ile Ile Gly 290	tat ggg ctg cca ttt cca Tyr Gly Leu Pro Phe Pro 295	aaa aat cct gac Lys Asn Pro Asp 300	1091
65	caa cgt ggt gac ctt cta Gln Arg Gly Asp Leu Leu 310	ata gaa ttt gag gtg tcc Ile Glu Phe Glu Val Ser 315	ttc cca gat act Phe Pro Asp Thr 320	1139
70	ata tct tct tca tcc aaa Ile Ser Ser Ser Ser Lys 325	gaa gta ctt agg aaa cat Glu Val Leu Arg Lys His 330	ctt cct gcc tca Leu Pro Ala Ser 335	1187
75	tag aatgaagaac tttgttacac 60	atattttgat aaggcactga 1240	aaatataaaa	

- 16 -

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10 <212> PRT

<213> Homo sapiens

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Asp Glu Asp Ile Lys Lys Ala Tyr Arg Lys Gln Ala Leu Lys Phe His
 20 25 30

25

Pro Asp Lys Asn Lys Ser Pro Gln Ala Glu Glu Lys Phe Lys Glu Val
 35 40 45

30

Ala Glu Ala Tyr Glu Val Leu Ser Asp Pro Lys Lys Arg Glu Ile Tyr
 50 55 60

35

Asp Gln Phe Gly Glu Glu Gly Leu Lys Gly Gly Ala Gly Gly Thr Asp
 65 70 75 80

Gly Gln Gly Gly Thr Phe Arg Tyr Thr Phe His Gly Asp Pro His Ala
 85 90 95

40

Thr Phe Ala Ala Phe Phe Gly Gly Ser Asn Pro Phe Glu Ile Phe Phe
 100 105 110

45

Gly Arg Arg Met Gly Gly Gly Arg Asp Ser Glu Glu Met Glu Ile Asp
 115 120 125

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Gly Asp Pro Phe Ser Ala Phe Gly Phe Ser Met Asn Gly Tyr Pro Arg
 130 135 140

55

Asp Arg Asn Ser Val Gly Pro Ser Arg Leu Lys Gln Asp Pro Pro Val
 145 150 155 160

Ile His Glu Leu Arg Val Ser Leu Glu Glu Ile Tyr Ser Gly Cys Thr
 165 170 175

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- 17 -

Lys Arg Met Lys Ile Ser Arg Lys Arg Leu Asn Ala Asp Gly Arg Ser
 180 185 190

5 Tyr Arg Ser Glu Asp Lys Ile Leu Thr Ile Glu Ile Lys Lys Gly Trp
 195 200 205

10 Lys Glu Gly Thr Lys Ile Thr Phe Pro Arg Glu Gly Asp Glu Thr Pro
 210 215 220

15 Asn Ser Ile Pro Ala Asp Ile Val Phe Ile Ile Lys Asp Lys Asp His
 225 230 235 240

Pro Lys Phe Lys Arg Asp Gly Ser Asn Ile Ile Tyr Thr Ala Lys Ile
 245 250 255

20 Ser Leu Arg Glu Ala Leu Cys Gly Cys Ser Ile Asn Val Pro Thr Leu
 260 265 270

25 Asp Gly Arg Asn Ile Pro Met Ser Val Asn Asp Ile Val Lys Pro Gly
 275 280 285

30 Met Arg Arg Arg Ile Ile Gly Tyr Gly Leu Pro Phe Pro Lys Asn Pro
 290 295 300

35 Asp Gln Arg Gly Asp Leu Leu Ile Glu Phe Glu Val Ser Phe Pro Asp
 305 310 315 320

Thr Ile Ser Ser Ser Ser Lys Glu Val Leu Arg Lys His Leu Pro Ala
 325 330 335

40 Ser

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50 <213> Homo sapiens

55 <220>
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 Gly Lys Thr Ile Thr Leu Glu Val Glu Pro Ser Asp Thr Ile Glu Asn
 10 15 20 25
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 gta aag gcc aag atc cag gat aag gaa gga att cct cct gat cag cag 148
 Val Lys Ala Lys Ile Gln Asp Lys Glu Gly Ile Pro Pro Asp Gln Gln
 30 35 40
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 arg ctg gtc tct gct ggc aag cag cgg gaa gat gga cgt cct acg tct 148
 Arg Leu Ile Phe Ala Gly Lys Gln Leu Glu Asp Gly Arg Thr Leu Ser
 45 50 55
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 gac tac aat att caa aag gag tct act ctt cat ctt gtg ttg aga ctt 244
 Asp Tyr Asn Ile Gln Lys Glu Ser Thr Leu His Leu Val Leu Arg Leu
 60 65 70
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 cgt ggt ggt gct aag aaa agg aag aag tct tac acc act ccc aag 292
 Arg Gly Gly Ala Lys Lys Arg Lys Lys Lys Ser Tyr Thr Thr Pro Lys
 75 80 85
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 aag aat aag cac aag aga aag aag gtt aag ctg gct gtc ctg aaa tat 340
 Lys Asn Lys His Lys Arg Lys Lys Val Lys Leu Ala Val Leu Lys Tyr
 90 95 100 105
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 tat aag gtg gat gag aat ggc aaa att agt cgc ctt cgt cga gag tgc 388
 Tyr Lys Val Asp Glu Asn Gly Lys Ile Ser Arg Leu Arg Arg Glu Cys
 110 115 120
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 cct tct gat gaa tgt ggt gct ggg gtg ttt atg gca agt cac ttt gac 436
 Pro Ser Asp Glu Cys Gly Ala Gly Val Phe Met Ala Ser His Phe Asp
 125 130 135
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 aga cat tat tgt ggc aaa tgt tgt ctg act tac tgt ttc aac aaa cca 484
 Arg His Tyr Cys Gly Lys Cys Cys Leu Thr Tyr Cys Phe Asn Lys Pro
 140 145 150
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 gaa gac aag taa ctgtatgagt taataaaaga catgaactaa caaaaa 532
 Glu Asp Lys
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 50 <211> 156
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 Met Gln Ile Phe Val Lys Thr Leu Thr Gly Lys Thr Ile Thr Leu Glu
 60 1 5 10 15

- 19 -

5 Val Glu Pro Ser Asp Thr Ile Glu Asn Val Lys Ala Lys Ile Gln Asp
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 Lys Glu Gly Ile Pro Pro Asp Gln Gln Arg Leu Ile Phe Ala Gly Lys
 35 40 45
 10 Gln Leu Glu Asp Gly Arg Thr Leu Ser Asp Tyr Asn Ile Gln Lys Glu
 50 55 60
 15 Asp Thr Leu His Val Val Arg Leu Arg Gly Gly Ala Lys Tyr Arg
 65 70 75 80
 20 Lys Lys Lys Ser Tyr Thr Thr Pro Lys Lys Asn Lys His Lys Arg Lys
 85 90 95
 Lys Val Lys Leu Ala Val Leu Lys Tyr Tyr Lys Val Asp Glu Asn Gly
 100 105 110
 25 Lys Ile Ser Arg Leu Arg Arg Glu Cys Pro Ser Asp Glu Cys Gly Ala
 115 120 125
 30 Gly Val Phe Met Ala Ser His Phe Asp Arg His Tyr Cys Gly Lys Cys
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	Met Glu Asp Leu Gly Glu Asn Thr Met Val Leu Ser Thr Leu Arg Ser	
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	ttg aac aac ttc atc tct cag cgt gtg gag gga ggc tct gga ctg gat	275
	Leu Asn Asn Phe Ile Ser Gln Arg Val Glu Gly Gly Ser Gly Leu Asp	
	20 25 30	
10	att tct acc tcg gcc cca ggt tct ctg cag atg cag tac cag cag agc	323
	Ile Ser Thr Ser Ala Pro Gly Ser Leu Gln Met Gln Tyr Gln Gln Ser	
	35 40 45	
15	atg cag ctg gaa gaa aga gca gag cag atc cgt tcg aag tcc cac etc	371
	Met Glu Leu Glu Gln Arg Ala Glu Gln Ile Arg Ser Lys Ser His Leu	
	50 55 60	
20	atc cag gtg gag cgg gag aaa atg cag atg gag ctg agt cac aag agg	419
	Ile Gln Val Glu Arg Glu Lys Met Gln Met Glu Leu Ser His Lys Arg	
	65 70 75 80	
25	gct cga gtg gag ctg gag aga gca gcc agc acc agt gcc agg aac tac	467
	Ala Arg Val Glu Leu Glu Arg Ala Ala Ser Thr Ser Ala Arg Asn Tyr	
	85 90 95	
	gag cgt gag gtc gac cgc aac cag gag ctc ctg acg cgc atc cgg cag	515
	Glu Arg Glu Val Asp Arg Asn Gln Glu Leu Leu Thr Arg Ile Arg Gln	
	100 105 110	
30	ctt cag gag cgg gag gcc ggg gcg gag gag aag atg cag gag cag ctg	563
	Leu Gln Glu Arg Glu Ala Gly Ala Glu Glu Lys Met Gln Glu Gln Leu	
	115 120 125	
35	gag cgc aac agg cag tgt cag cag aac ttg gat gct gcc agc aag agg	611
	Glu Arg Asn Arg Gln Cys Gln Gln Asn Leu Asp Ala Ala Ser Lys Arg	
	130 135 140	
40	ctg cgt gag aaa gag gac agt ctg gcc cag gct ggc gag acc atc aac	659
	Leu Arg Glu Lys Glu Asp Ser Leu Ala Gln Ala Gly Glu Thr Ile Asn	
	145 150 155 160	
45	gca ctg aag ggg agg atc tcg gaa ctg cag tgg agc gtg atg gac cag	707
	Ala Leu Lys Gly Arg Ile Ser Glu Leu Gln Trp Ser Val Met Asp Gln	
	165 170 175	
	gag atg cgg gtg aag cgc ctg gag tcg gag aag cag gac gtg cag gag	755
	Glu Met Arg Val Lys Arg Leu Glu Ser Glu Lys Gln Asp Val Gln Glu	
	180 185 190	
50	cag ctg gac ctg caa cac aaa aaa tgc cag gaa gcc aat cag aaa atc	803
	Gln Leu Asp Leu Gln His Lys Lys Cys Gln Glu Ala Asn Gln Lys Ile	
	195 200 205	
55	cag gaa ctc cag gcc agc caa gaa gca aga gca gac cac gag cag cag	851
	Gln Glu Leu Gln Ala Ser Gln Glu Ala Arg Ala Asp His Glu Gln Gln	
	210 215 220	
60	att aag gat ctg gag cag aag ctg tcc ctg caa gag cag gat gca gcg	899
	Ile Lys Asp Leu Glu Gln Lys Leu Ser Leu Gln Glu Gln Asp Ala Ala	
	225 230 235 240	

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	att gtg aag aac atg aag tct gag ctg gta cgg ctc cct agg ctg gaa	947
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	245 250 255	
5	cgg gag ctg gag cag ctg cgg gag gag agc gca ctg cgg gag atg aga	995
	Arg Glu Leu Glu Gln Leu Arg Glu Glu Ser Ala Leu Arg Glu Met Arg	
	260 265 270	
10	gag acc aac ggg ctg ctc cag gaa gag ctg gaa ggg ctg cag agg aag	1043
	Glu Thr Asn Gly Leu Leu Gln Glu Glu Leu Glu Gly Leu Gln Arg Lys	
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	Glu Asn Glu Arg Leu Leu Ala Lys Leu Gln Ser Trp Glu Arg Leu Asp	
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	Gln Thr Met Gly Leu Ser Ile Arg Thr Pro Glu Asp Leu Ser Arg Phe	
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	Val Val Glu Leu Gln Gln Arg Glu Leu Ala Leu Lys Asp Lys Asn Ser	
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	Gln Glu Glu Leu Arg Gln Val Ser Gly Gln Leu Leu Glu Glu Arg Lys	
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	Lys Arg Glu Thr His Glu Ala Leu Ala Arg Arg Leu Gln Lys Arg Val	
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	Leu Leu Leu Thr Lys Glu Arg Asp Gly Met Arg Ala Ile Leu Gly Ser	
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	Arg Met Arg Glu Ala Glu Asp Met Val Gln Lys Val His Ser His Ser	
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	Ala Glu Met Glu Ala Gln Leu Ser Gln Ala Leu Glu Glu Leu Gly Gly	
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	Gln Lys Gln Arg Ala Asp Met Leu Glu Met Glu Leu Lys Met Leu Lys	
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	Ala Asp Thr Leu Arg Leu Lys Val Glu Glu Leu Glu Gly Glu Arg Ser	
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	Arg Leu Glu Glu Glu Lys Arg Met Leu Glu Ala Gln Leu Glu Arg Arg	
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	Ser Leu Pro Ser Ser Lys Glu Val Ala Glu Leu Lys Lys Gln Val Glu	
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	Ser Ala Glu Leu Lys Asn Gln Arg Leu Lys Glu Val Phe Gln Thr Lys	
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	atc cag gag ttc cgc aag gcc tgc tac acg ctc acc ggc tac cag atc	2099
	Ile Gln Glu Phe Arg Lys Ala Cys Tyr Thr Leu Thr Gly Tyr Gln Ile	
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	gac atc acc acg gag aac cag tac cgg ctg acc tcg ctg tac gcc gag	2147
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	Arg Ser Pro Ser Ser Ser Ser Ala Ala Arg Pro Trp Arg Ser Leu Gln	
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 10 cca cag ggc agc agc atg act gac aga cac gct ggg acc tac gtc ggg 2483
 Pro Gln Gly Ser Ser Met Thr Asp Arg His Ala Gly Thr Tyr Val Gly
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 tcc cgg agc ctg gtg tgt ggg cgt cgg cca cca gcc tgg gtt cct cac 2579
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 Ala Arg Val Glu Leu Glu Arg Ala Ala Ser Thr Ser Ala Arg Asn Tyr
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Glu Arg Glu Val Asp Arg Asn Gln Glu Leu Leu Thr Arg Ile Arg Gln
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Leu Gln Glu Arg Glu Ala Gly Ala Glu Glu Lys Met Gln Glu Gln Leu
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Gln Leu Asp Leu Gln His Lys Lys Cys Gln Glu Ala Asn Gln Lys Ile
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Gln Glu Leu Gln Ala Ser Gln Glu Ala Arg Ala Asp His Glu Gln Gln
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Ile Lys Asp Leu Glu Gln Lys Leu Ser Leu Gln Glu Gln Asp Ala Ala
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Ile Val Lys Asn Met Lys Ser Glu Leu Val Arg Leu Pro Arg Leu Glu
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Leu Gly Arg Gln Glu Lys Met Gln Glu Thr Leu Val Gly Leu Glu Leu
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Glu Asn Glu Arg Leu Leu Ala Lys Leu Gln Ser Trp Glu Arg Leu Asp
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Gln Thr Met Gly Leu Ser Ile Arg Thr Pro Glu Asp Leu Ser Arg Phe
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 Arg Met Arg Glu Ala Glu Asp Met Val Gln Lys Val His Ser His Ser
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755 760 765

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	tgagcccgcg ggagcccagg acgcccgttc cccgcccatc cccgctcccc gaggccggcc	180
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	Gln Gln Arg Val Ala Glu Leu Glu Lys Ile Asn Ala Glu Phe Leu Arg	
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	Asp Lys Ile Lys Glu Leu Glu Ala Ser Lys Val Lys Glu Leu Asn His	
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	Lys Asp Gln Glu Asp Asp Glu Gln Gln Arg Leu Asn Lys Arg Lys Asp	
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	gga gac act aca gag gca ctg cgg gag ttg gta tta aaa taa agt gag	2246
	Pro Asp Thr Thr Glu Ala Leu Arg Glu Leu Val Leu Lys Tyr Arg Glu	
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Glu His Gln Phe His Leu Arg Leu Glu Gln Glu Arg Thr Gln Trp Ala
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5 Ala Gln Glu Asp Ala Glu Lys Leu Arg Ser Val Val Met Pro Met Glu
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10 Lys Glu Ile Ala Ala Leu Lys Asp Lys Leu Thr Glu Ala Glu Asp Lys
 195 200 205

Ile Lys Glu Leu Glu Ala Ser Lys Val Lys Glu Leu Asn His Tyr Asn
 210 215 220

Glu Ala Glu Lys Ser Cys Arg Thr Asp Leu Glu Met Tyr Val Ala Val
 225 230 235 240

20 Leu Asn Thr Gln Lys Ser Val Leu Gln Glu Asp Ala Glu Lys Leu Arg
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25 Lys Glu Leu His Glu Val Cys His Leu Leu Glu Gln Glu Arg Gln Gln
 260 265 270

30 His Asn Gln Leu Lys His Thr Trp Gln Lys Ala Asn Asp Gln Phe Leu
 275 280 285

Glu Ser Gln Arg Leu Leu Met Arg Asp Met Gln Arg Met Glu Ile Val
 290 295 300

35 Leu Thr Ser Glu Gln Leu Arg Gln Val Glu Glu Leu Lys Lys Lys Asp
 305 310 315 320

40 Gln Glu Asp Asp Glu Gln Gln Arg Leu Asn Lys Arg Lys Asp His Lys
 325 330 335

45 Lys Ala Asp Val Glu Glu Glu Ile Lys Ile Pro Val Val Cys Ala Leu
 340 345 350

50 Thr Gln Glu Glu Ser Ser Ala Gln Leu Ser Asn Glu Glu Glu His Leu
 355 360 365

Asp Ser Thr Arg Gly Ser Val His Ser Leu Asp Ala Gly Leu Leu Leu
 370 375 380

55 Pro Ser Gly Asp Pro Phe Ser Lys Ser Asp Asn Asp Met Phe Lys Asp
 385 390 395 400

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Gly Leu Arg Arg Ala Gln Ser Thr Asp Ser Leu Gly Thr Ser Gly Ser
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5 Leu Gln Ser Lys Ala Leu Gly Tyr Asn Tyr Lys Ala Lys Ser Ala Gly
 420 425 430

10 Asn Leu Asp Glu Ser Asp Phe Gly Pro Leu Val Gly Ala Asp Ser Val
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Ser Glu Asn Phe Asp Thr Ala Ser Leu Gly Ser Leu Gln Met Pro Cor
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Gly Phe Met Leu Thr Lys Asp Gln Glu Arg Ala Ile Lys Ala Met Thr
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20 Pro Glu Gln Glu Glu Thr Ala Ser Leu Leu Ser Ser Val Thr Gln Gly
 485 490 495

25 Met Glu Ser Ala Tyr Val Ser Pro Ser Gly Tyr Arg Leu Val Ser Glu
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30 Thr Glu Trp Asn Leu Leu Gln Lys Glu Val His Asn Ala Gly Asn Lys
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Leu Gly Arg Arg Cys Asp Met Cys Ser Asn Tyr Glu Lys Gln Leu Gln
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35 Gly Ile Gln Ile Gln Glu Ala Glu Thr Arg Asp Gln Val Lys Lys Leu
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40 Gln Leu Met Leu Arg Gln Ala Asn Asp Gln Leu Glu Lys Thr Met Lys
 565 570 575

45 Asp Lys Gln Glu Leu Glu Asp Phe Ile Lys Gln Ser Ser Glu Asp Ser
 580 585 590

50 Ser His Gln Ile Ser Ala Leu Val Leu Arg Ala Gln Ala Ser Glu Ile
 595 600 605

Leu Leu Glu Glu Leu Gln Gln Gly Leu Ser Gln Ala Lys Arg Asp Val
 610 615 620

55 Gln Glu Gln Met Ala Val Leu Met Gln Ser Arg Glu Gln Val Ser Glu
 625 630 635 640

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Glu Leu Val Arg Leu Gln Lys Asp Asn Asp Ser Leu Gln Gly Lys His
 645 650 655

5 Ser Leu His Val Ser Leu Gln Gln Ala Glu Asp Phe Ile Leu Pro Asp
 660 665 670

10 Thr Thr Glu Ala Leu Arg Glu Leu Val Leu Lys Tyr Arg Glu Asp Ile
 675 680 685

15 Ile Asn Val Arg Thr Ala Ala Asp His Val Glu Glu Lys Leu Lys Ala
 690 695 700

20 Glu Ile Leu Phe Leu Lys Glu Gln Ile Gln Ala Glu Gln Cys Leu Lys
 705 710 715 720

25 Glu Asn Leu Glu Glu Thr Leu Gln Leu Glu Ile Glu Asn Cys Lys Glu
 725 730 735

30 Val Glu Lys Gly Gln Leu Glu Ser Thr Leu Arg Glu Lys Ser Gln Gln
 755 760 765

35 Leu Glu Ser Leu Gln Glu Ile Lys Ile Ser Leu Glu Glu Gln Leu Lys
 770 775 780

40 Lys Glu Thr Ala Ala Lys Ala Thr Val Glu Gln Leu Met Phe Glu Glu
 785 790 795 800

45 Lys Asn Lys Ala Gln Arg Leu Gln Thr Glu Leu Asp Val Ser Glu Gln
 805 810 815

50 Val Gln Arg Asp Phe Val Lys Leu Ser Gln Thr Leu Gln Val Gln Leu
 820 825 830

55 Glu Arg Ile Arg Gln Ala Asp Ser Leu Glu Arg Ile Arg Ala Ile Leu
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60 Asn Asp Thr Lys Leu Thr Asp Ile Asn Gln Leu Pro Glu Thr
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<212> DNA

<213> Homo sapiens

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	gtcggggaggg aggaaggtgg caag atg gtg ttg gaa agc act atg gtg tgt	171
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	1 5	
	gtg gac aac agt gag tat atg cgg aat gga gac ttc tta ccc acc agg	219
	Val Asp Asn Ser Glu Tyr Met Arg Asn Gly Asp Phe Leu Pro Thr Arg	
25	10 15 20 25	
	ctg cag gcc cag cag gat gct gtc aac ata gtt tgt cat tca aag acc	267
	Leu Gln Ala Gln Gln Asp Ala Val Asn Ile Val Cys His Ser Lys Thr	
	30 35 40	
30	cgc agc aac cct gag aac aac gtg ggc ctt atc aca ctg gct aat gac	315
	Arg Ser Asn Pro Glu Asn Asn Val Gly Leu Ile Thr Leu Ala Asn Asp	
	45 50 55	
35	tgt gaa gtg ctg acc aca ctc acc cca gac act ggc cgt atc ctg tcc	363
	Cys Glu Val Leu Thr Thr Leu Thr Pro Asp Thr Gly Arg Ile Leu Ser	
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40	Lys Leu His Thr Val Gln Pro Lys Gly Lys Ile Thr Phe Cys Thr Gly	
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	atc cgc gtg gcc cat ctg gct ctg aag cac cga caa ggc aag aat cac	459
	Ile Arg Val Ala His Leu Ala Leu Lys His Arg Gln Gly Lys Asn His	
45	90 95 100 105	
	aag atg cgc atc att gcc ttt gtg gga agc cca gtg gag gac aat gag	507
	Lys Met Arg Ile Ile Ala Phe Val Gly Ser Pro Val Glu Asp Asn Glu	
	110 115 120	
50	aag gat ctg gtg aaa ctg gct aaa cgc ctc aag aag gag aaa gta aat	555
	Lys Asp Leu Val Lys Leu Ala Lys Arg Leu Lys Lys Glu Lys Val Asn	
	125 130 135	
55	gtt gac att atc aat ttt ggg gaa gag gag gtg aac aca gaa aag ctg	603
	Val Asp Ile Ile Asn Phe Gly Glu Glu Glu Val Asn Thr Glu Lys Leu	
	140 145 150	
60	aca gcc ttt gta aac acg ttg aat ggc aaa gat gga acc ggt tct cat	651
	Thr Ala Phe Val Asn Thr Leu Asn Gly Lys Asp Gly Thr Gly Ser His	
	155 160 165	

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5 ctg gtg aca gtg cct cct ggg ccc agt ttg gct gat gct ctc atc agt 699
 Leu Val Thr Val Pro Pro Gly Pro Ser Leu Ala Asp Ala Leu Ile Ser 185
 170 175 180

10 tct ccg att ttg gct ggt gaa ggt ggt gcc atg ctg ggt ctt ggt gcc 747
 Ser Pro Ile Leu Ala Gly Glu Gly Gly Ala Met Leu Gly Leu Gly Ala 200
 190 195

10 agt gac ttt gaa ttt gga gta gat ccc agt gct gat cct gag ctg gcc 795
 Ser Asp Phe Glu Phe Gly Val Asp Pro Ser Ala Asp Pro Glu Leu Ala 215
 205 210

15 ttg gcc ctt cct gta tct atg gaa gag cag cgg cag cgg cag gag gag 845
 Leu Ala Leu Arg Val Ser Met Gln Gln Gln Arg Gln Arg Gln Gln 230
 220 225

20 gag gcc cgg cgg gca gct gca gct tct gct gct gag gcc ggg att gct 891
 Glu Ala Arg Arg Ala Ala Ala Ser Ala Ala Glu Ala Gly Ile Ala 245
 235 240

25 acg act ggg act gaa gac tca gac gat gcc ctg ctg aag atg acc atc 939
 Thr Thr Gly Thr Glu Asp Ser Asp Asp Ala Leu Leu Lys Met Thr Ile 265
 250 255 260

30 agc cag caa gag ttt ggc cgc act ggg ctt cct gac cta agc agt atg 987
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 270 275

30 act gag gaa gag cag att gct tat gcc atg cag atg tcc ctg cag gga 1035
 Thr Glu Glu Glu Gln Ile Ala Tyr Ala Met Gln Met Ser Leu Gln Gly 295
 285 290

35 gca gag ttt ggc cag gcg gaa tca gca gac att gat gcc agc tca gct 1083
 Ala Glu Phe Gly Gln Ala Glu Ser Ala Asp Ile Asp Ala Ser Ser Ala 310
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45 cag gac ccc gag ttc ctt cag agt gtc cta gag aac ctc cca ggt gtg 1179
 Gln Asp Pro Glu Phe Leu Gln Ser Val Leu Glu Asn Leu Pro Gly Val 345
 330 335 340

50 gat ccc aac aat gaa gcc att cga aat gct atg ggc tcc ctg gcc tcc 1227
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50 cag gcc acc aag gac ggc aag aag gac aag aag gag gaa gac aag aag 1275
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<212> PRT

<213> Homo sapiens

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<400> 16

Met Val Leu Glu Ser Thr Met Val Cys Val Asp Asn Ser Glu Tyr Met
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Arg Asn Gly Asp Phe Leu Pro Thr Arg Leu Gln Ala Gln Gln Asp Ala
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Asn Ile Val Cys His Ser Lys Thr Arg Ser Asn Pro Glu Asn
 35 40 45

20 Val Gly Leu Ile Thr Leu Ala Asn Asp Cys Glu Val Leu Thr Thr Leu
 50 55 60

25 Thr Pro Asp Thr Gly Arg Ile Leu Ser Lys Leu His Thr Val Gln Pro
 65 70 75 80

Lys Gly Lys Ile Thr Phe Cys Thr Gly Ile Arg Val Ala His Leu Ala
 85 90 95

30

Leu Lys His Arg Gln Gly Lys Asn His Lys Met Arg Ile Ile Ala Phe
 100 105 110

35

Val Gly Ser Pro Val Glu Asp Asn Glu Lys Asp Leu Val Lys Leu Ala
 115 120 125

40 Lys Arg Leu Lys Lys Glu Lys Val Asn Val Asp Ile Ile Asn Phe Gly
 130 135 140

45 Glu Glu Glu Val Asn Thr Glu Lys Leu Thr Ala Phe Val Asn Thr Leu
 145 150 155 160

Asn Gly Lys Asp Gly Thr Gly Ser His Leu Val Thr Val Pro Pro Gly
 165 170 175

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Pro Ser Leu Ala Asp Ala Leu Ile Ser Ser Pro Ile Leu Ala Gly Glu
 180 185 190

55

Gly Gly Ala Met Leu Gly Leu Gly Ala Ser Asp Phe Glu Phe Gly Val
 195 200 205

60 Asp Pro Ser Ala Asp Pro Glu Leu Ala Leu Ala Leu Arg Val Ser Met

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	210	215	220
5	Glu Glu Gln Arg Gln Arg Gln Glu Glu Glu Ala Arg Arg Ala Ala Ala 225 230 235 240		
10	Ala Ser Ala Ala Glu Ala Gly Ile Ala Thr Thr Gly Thr Glu Asp Ser 245 250 255		
15	Asp Asp Ala Leu Leu Lys Met Thr Ile Ser Gln Gln Glu Phe Gly Arg 260 265 270		
20	Thr Gly Leu Pro Asp Leu Ser Ser Met Thr Glu Glu Glu Gln Ile Ala 275 280 285		
25	Tyr Ala Met Gln Met Ser Leu Gln Gly Ala Glu Phe Gly Gln Ala Glu 290 295 300		
30	Ser Ala Asp Ile Asp Ala Ser Ser Ala Met Asp Thr Ser Glu Pro Ala 305 310 315 320		
35	Lys Glu Glu Asp Asp Tyr Asp Val Met Gln Asp Pro Glu Phe Leu Gln 325 330 335		
40	Ser Val Leu Glu Asn Leu Pro Gly Val Asp Pro Asn Asn Glu Ala Ile 340 345 350		
	Arg Asn Ala Met Gly Ser Leu Ala Ser Gln Ala Thr Lys Asp Gly Lys 355 360 365		
	Lys Asp Lys Lys Glu Glu Asp Lys Lys 370 375		